

**ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION**  
**Sample Question Paper – 1**  
**English Paper – 1**

**Time: 2 Hours**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. Answer to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
4. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
5. Attempt all five questions
6. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].
7. You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

**QUESTION 1.**

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on it.)

**Select any one of the following.**

**(i) Write a letter to your colleague, Mr. Narayana, apologising for misunderstanding of an act of generosity by him. You are D. Kumaraswami.**

**Answer:**

**D. Kumaraswami**

[Your Position]

[Your Company Name]

[Date]

**Mr. Narayana**

[His Position]

[His Company Name]

Dear Mr. Narayana,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to sincerely apologize for the misunderstanding that occurred recently regarding your actions, which I now

realize were acts of generosity and kindness. I deeply regret my reaction and the way I interpreted your gesture.

Looking back on the situation, I now understand that your actions were meant to be supportive and helpful. However, at that moment, I mistakenly saw them from a different perspective and, in doing so, failed to appreciate your intentions. I mistakenly assumed that you were perhaps trying to impose or interfere in a manner that was not needed, but I see now how wrong I was. Your thoughtful gesture was, in fact, an offer of help, and I failed to recognize it as such.

I want to assure you that my reaction was completely out of character and not reflective of my true feelings towards you or the value I place on our professional relationship. In the heat of the moment, I let my own assumptions cloud my judgment, which I now realize caused unnecessary tension between us. I feel truly embarrassed by my behavior and the way it may have affected our interactions.

I greatly respect your generosity and the sincerity with which you go about helping others, whether in personal or professional matters. Your kindness speaks volumes about your character, and I truly regret not seeing it for what it was at the time.

Please accept my heartfelt apology for any discomfort or confusion I may have caused. I value our working relationship greatly, and I deeply regret the misunderstanding. I assure you that I have learned from this experience, and I will be more mindful of how I approach such situations in the future.

Once again, I apologize for my mistake, and I hope this incident will not affect our working relationship moving forward. I look forward to continuing our collaboration and to strengthening the bond of trust and respect that we share.

Thank you for your understanding, and I hope we can put this behind us.

Sincerely,

**D. Kumaraswami**

**(ii) You are Vivek/Bhumika Pareek, Warden of the hostel in Karuna Public School, Allahabad. Write an enquiry letter to the Marketing Manager, Prayag Domestic Appliances, Naini, requesting a quotation for ceiling fans, tube light fixtures and other electric items required for the hostel. Specify the number required of each item and request for credit in the terms of payment.**

**Answer:**

**Vivek/Bhumika Pareek**

Warden, Hostel

Karuna Public School  
Allahabad

Date: 10th December 2024

**The Marketing Manager**  
Prayag Domestic Appliances  
Naini, Allahabad

Subject: Request for Quotation for Ceiling Fans, Tube Light Fixtures, and Other Electric Items

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. I am writing to you in my capacity as the Warden of the Hostel at Karuna Public School, Allahabad. We are in the process of upgrading and refurbishing the electrical fittings and appliances in the hostel, and as part of this initiative, we are looking to purchase several electric items, including ceiling fans, tube light fixtures, and other related products.

Having heard positive reviews about the quality of products supplied by your esteemed company, Prayag Domestic Appliances, I would like to request a quotation for the following items, along with the prices and specifications:

1. **Ceiling Fans** - We require **15 ceiling fans** for the common areas and student rooms. Please include the specifications regarding energy efficiency, motor type, and warranty period.
2. **Tube Light Fixtures** - We require **30 tube light fixtures**, specifically those suitable for the hostel's corridors and classrooms.
3. **LED Bulbs (15W)** - We require **50 LED bulbs**, for use in the common areas, corridors, and staff rooms.
4. **Exhaust Fans** - We need **5 exhaust fans** to be installed in the kitchen and bathroom areas.
5. **Switches and Sockets** - A bulk order of **100 assorted switches and sockets** is needed to replace old ones in various rooms and areas.

In addition to the detailed pricing, we kindly request that you include the following in your quotation:

- Delivery timelines for all items listed above.
- Warranty details for the fans, lights, and appliances.



- Any special offers or bulk purchase discounts that may apply.

Furthermore, as per our school's payment procedures, we request that you kindly provide us with the terms of credit. We would appreciate it if you could extend a credit facility to us, allowing for the payment to be made within **30 days** from the date of delivery and installation.

We would be grateful if you could send us the quotation at your earliest convenience so that we can proceed with our procurement plans. If any further information or clarification is required regarding our requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your prompt response and hope for a positive collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

**Vivek/Bhumika Pareek**

Warden, Hostel

Karuna Public School

Allahabad

Phone: [Your Contact Number]

Email: [Your Email Address]

## **QUESTION 2.**

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following.

**(i) Every year the school holds a fair known as 'The annual school fete'. Describe what you see at the fete. Give details of the food, game and other stalls put up there.**

### **Answer:**

The annual school fete is an exciting event that brings together students, teachers, and families for a day filled with fun, laughter, and vibrant activities. The atmosphere is always buzzing with energy as everyone gathers to celebrate and enjoy the various stalls, food, and games that have been set up around the school grounds.

As I enter the fete, I'm greeted by a colorful array of booths, each offering something unique. The first thing that catches my eye is the food stalls, which are lined up along one side of the field. The smell of freshly cooked food fills the air, tempting everyone to indulge in some delicious treats. There's a popular stall selling hot, crispy fries,



with an assortment of dips like ketchup, mayonnaise, and tangy chili sauce. Nearby, a cotton candy stand draws in a crowd, with kids eagerly waiting for their fluffy, pastel-colored spun sugar. The scent of sizzling burgers and sausages from the barbecue grill also wafts through the air, and I see people enjoying these hearty meals seated at picnic tables under colorful umbrellas.

For those with a sweet tooth, there's a cake stall showcasing a variety of homemade cakes, pastries, and cupcakes. The brightly decorated cakes, with layers of cream and intricate designs, are hard to resist. A group of students is busy behind the stall, offering samples and chatting cheerfully with the visitors.

Moving further into the fete, I come across the game stalls, each offering a fun challenge for everyone. The classic ring toss game is a favorite, where participants try to throw rings onto bottles to win prizes. Nearby, a balloon-popping game attracts many, as players aim water-filled darts at balloons tied to a board. There's also a "knock the cans down" game, where players throw softballs to knock over stacks of cans for a chance to win toys and small prizes. For younger children, there's a face painting booth, where an artist is painting bright, cheerful designs like butterflies and superheroes on eager little faces.

One of the most popular areas is the raffle ticket booth, where visitors buy tickets for a chance to win grand prizes, including a brand-new bicycle, gift vouchers, and various gadgets. The excitement of waiting for the raffle draw adds an extra thrill to the fete.

Alongside the food and games, there's also a section dedicated to handmade crafts. Students and parents display beautiful items like hand-knitted scarves, pottery, and custom jewelry. The crafts not only add to the charm of the fete but also offer a chance to purchase unique souvenirs to take home.

As the day goes on, live music can be heard in the background, with student bands and performers entertaining the crowd. The annual school fete is an event full of laughter, joy, and memories, making it a day to look forward to every year.

**(ii) Write an original short story entitled 'God helps those who help others.'**

**Answer: God helps those who help others.**

Maya was a young woman with a heart full of compassion. She volunteered at a local orphanage, spending her weekends playing with the children, tutoring them, and sharing stories. One day, while walking home from the orphanage, she noticed an elderly woman struggling to carry heavy bags. Without hesitation, Maya offered her help. The woman, grateful for the assistance, shared her life story with Maya.

The woman revealed that she was a retired teacher who had lost her savings in a fraudulent investment. She was struggling to make ends meet and was worried about her medical bills. Maya, touched by the woman's plight, decided to help. She used her savings to pay the woman's medical bills and helped her find a part-time job at a local bookstore.

News of Maya's kindness spread throughout the community. A local businessman, impressed by her selfless act, offered her a scholarship to pursue her dream of becoming a social worker. Maya was overjoyed and grateful for the opportunity. She continued to volunteer at the orphanage and help others in need, always remembering the words, "God helps those who help others."

**(iii) 'Online smart classes are the future of education.' Express your views for or against this statement.**

**Answer: Online Smart Classes: The Future of Education**

The rise of online education has brought significant changes to the traditional education system. With the advancements in technology, online smart classes have gained considerable attention as a viable mode of learning. While some view it as the future of education, others argue that it cannot fully replace conventional learning environments. Both sides present compelling arguments, but in my view, online smart classes are indeed the future of education, albeit with certain limitations.

**Advantages of Online Smart Classes:**

1. **Accessibility and Flexibility:** One of the primary benefits of online smart classes is the unparalleled accessibility they offer. Students from any corner of the world can access lessons, lectures, and educational resources without the need to physically attend classes. This democratization of education is crucial in providing learning opportunities to individuals who may not have access to quality education due to geographical or socio-economic constraints. Moreover, online classes offer flexibility in terms of time. Students can learn at their own pace, revisit lessons, and manage their schedules more effectively.
2. **Technological Integration:** Online smart classes incorporate a wide range of technologies that enhance the learning experience. Interactive tools such as quizzes, simulations, and video conferencing platforms enable real-time communication and engagement. The use of multimedia—videos, infographics, and animations—makes learning more dynamic and accessible, catering to various learning styles. These technologies also make it easier to



track students' progress and provide personalized feedback, which is a major advantage over traditional classroom settings.

3. **Cost-Effectiveness:** Online education often proves to be more affordable than traditional schooling. It eliminates the need for infrastructure, commuting costs, and physical textbooks. This makes education more financially accessible, particularly in the case of higher education where tuition fees can be prohibitively expensive.

### **Challenges and Limitations:**

1. **Lack of Personal Interaction:** One significant drawback of online smart classes is the limited face-to-face interaction. Traditional classrooms foster personal connections between teachers and students, promoting better communication and mentorship. In contrast, online classes may leave students feeling isolated or disengaged, potentially affecting their motivation and overall learning experience.
2. **Digital Divide:** Not all students have equal access to the internet and technology, which creates a digital divide. Rural and economically disadvantaged students may struggle with poor internet connectivity or the lack of devices, making online education inaccessible to them. Until global internet infrastructure improves, this remains a significant barrier to the widespread adoption of online smart classes.
3. **Discipline and Self-Motivation:** Online learning requires a high degree of self-discipline and motivation, as students are often studying independently without direct supervision. Without the structured environment of a physical classroom, students may find it difficult to stay focused, leading to procrastination and subpar learning outcomes.

**(iv) Study the picture given below. Write a short story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it.**





**Answer:** The image depicts the Attari-Wagah border ceremony, a daily military practice between India and Pakistan. It is a unique spectacle showcasing both the tension and the fragile peace between the two nations.

The ceremony begins with a parade by soldiers from both sides, marching with synchronized steps and raised legs, a display of discipline and power. The atmosphere is charged with a sense of rivalry and nationalism as the soldiers perform elaborate maneuvers.

As the sun begins to set, the focus shifts to the lowering of the flags. The soldiers, standing at attention, exchange the flags with a sense of ceremony and respect. It is a poignant moment, symbolizing the shared history and the ongoing conflict between the two countries.

The Attari-Wagah border ceremony is a reminder of the complexities of the India-Pakistan relationship. It is a place where history, politics, and emotions converge, creating a powerful and unforgettable experience.

**(v) You are a resident of London in England and are visiting India for the first time to attend a training course. Narrate your experience and what you learnt on reaching there.**

**Answer:** My First Visit to India – A Journey of Discovery

As a resident of London, I had always heard stories about the vibrant culture, diverse traditions, and bustling energy of India. Yet, no description could fully prepare me for the experience of setting foot in this incredible country for the first time. I was

traveling to attend a professional training course in New Delhi, and from the moment I landed, India captivated me with its unique charm.

The first thing I noticed at Indira Gandhi International Airport was the warmth of the people. The hospitality extended to me, even at immigration and the hotel reception, was unparalleled. Outside the airport, the world seemed alive—honking vehicles, colorful rickshaws, street vendors selling snacks, and a sea of people moving with purpose. The sheer vibrancy of Delhi contrasted sharply with the orderliness I was accustomed to back home in London.

On my way to the training center, I was struck by the juxtaposition of old and new. Modern skyscrapers stood alongside centuries-old monuments. The city seemed like a blend of history and modernity, where technology coexisted with tradition. Visiting landmarks like the India Gate and Humayun's Tomb during my free time gave me a glimpse into India's rich past. I learned that Delhi was home to many empires, and their influence still echoed in its architecture.

The training course itself was a remarkable experience. The diverse group of participants, including locals and professionals from other countries, allowed me to interact with different perspectives. I was particularly impressed by the work ethic and determination of my Indian colleagues. They welcomed me wholeheartedly, sharing stories about their lives, culture, and aspirations. I realized that professionalism here was intertwined with a sense of community and warmth.

During breaks, I experienced Indian cuisine—an explosion of flavors! From spicy curries to sweet jalebis, every dish was a sensory adventure. I was intrigued to learn how food varied across regions, reflecting India's diversity. My Indian hosts explained the significance of chai (tea) as more than just a beverage—it was a symbol of connection and conversation.

This trip taught me more than just professional skills. It broadened my understanding of cultural diversity, adaptability, and human connection. India, with its bustling streets, historical grandeur, and welcoming people, offered me lessons that went beyond the training room. I left with cherished memories, a heart full of gratitude, and a desire to return one day to explore even more of this incredible land.

India was not just a destination; it was an experience—one that I will carry with me forever.

### **QUESTION 3.**

**(i) Write an e-mail. to mail id: learn-englishfree@vsnl.com enquiring about subscription to their academic website. You are Samrat Pal with mail id: s-pal@yahoo.co.in.**

**Answer:**

**Subject:** Inquiry Regarding Subscription to Academic Website

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Samrat Pal, and I am writing to inquire about the subscription options available for your academic website. I came across your platform while searching for educational resources, and I am particularly interested in accessing your content to further enhance my knowledge of the English language.

Could you kindly provide more detailed information regarding the subscription process? Specifically, I would like to know about the different types of subscriptions that you offer, their respective benefits, and the costs associated with each. Additionally, I would appreciate it if you could inform me about the duration of these subscriptions, whether they are available on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis.

It would also be helpful to know if there are any discounts or promotions currently available for new subscribers or students. Furthermore, I am curious if there are any additional resources included in the subscription, such as interactive exercises, video lessons, quizzes, or any other materials that may aid in my learning experience.

As I am looking for a reliable and comprehensive platform to improve my proficiency in English, I am particularly interested in understanding the level of content available on your website. Does your platform cater to beginners, intermediate learners, or advanced students? Are there specific courses or materials focusing on particular areas of English, such as grammar, vocabulary, writing skills, or conversation practice?

I would also appreciate it if you could provide details about the payment methods you accept for subscriptions, as well as any cancellation or refund policies that may apply should I decide to discontinue my subscription at any time.

Lastly, I would be grateful if you could inform me whether your platform offers any kind of trial period or free content so that I can evaluate the quality of your services before committing to a paid subscription.



Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. I look forward to hearing from you soon and learning more about how your platform can support my academic and language development goals.

Best regards,  
Samrat Pal  
Email: s-pal@yahoo.co.in

**(ii) You are Shrish of Class X. As the Cultural Secretary of your school, draft a notice for an Inter-School Debate Competition.**

**Answer:**

**ABC School, XYZ City**

**NOTICE**

**Inter-School Debate Competition**

Date: 10th December 2024

As part of our school's commitment to promoting intellectual growth and public speaking skills, we are pleased to announce an **Inter-School Debate Competition** that will be held at **ABC School** on **15th January 2025**. This competition is open to students from various schools, and we invite enthusiastic participants to register and showcase their debating skills.

**Event Details:**

- **Date of Event:** 15th January 2025
- **Time:** 9:00 AM onwards
- **Venue:** ABC School Auditorium
- **Eligibility:** Students from Class IX to XII
- **Topic:** "The Impact of Social Media on Society"
- **Format:**
  - The competition will be held in two rounds:
    - **Preliminary Round:** Participants will present their arguments in teams of two, either for or against the given topic.
    - **Final Round:** The top four teams from the preliminary round will compete in the final round.

- Each participant will have 5 minutes to speak, followed by a 2-minute rebuttal session.

### **Rules and Regulations:**

1. All participants must register through their school's cultural department.
2. Schools can send a maximum of two teams for the competition (each team consisting of two members).
3. The language of the debate will be **English**.
4. Participants should refrain from using offensive language or personal attacks.
5. The judges' decision will be final and binding.
6. The winning team will be awarded a **trophy** and certificates for each participant. Certificates of participation will be provided to all teams.

### **Registration:**

- Interested students must submit their registration forms by **31st December 2024** to the Cultural Secretary or via email to **cultural@abcschool.edu**.
- Teams will be selected based on the order of registration, so early registration is encouraged.

We look forward to seeing your participation and the sharing of diverse perspectives on this important topic. The Inter-School Debate Competition promises to be an exciting and enriching experience for all participants, and we are confident that it will provide an excellent platform to nurture your skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork.

For any further inquiries, please contact the Cultural Secretary, Shrish, at **contact@abcschool.edu**.

Best regards,  
Shrish  
**Cultural Secretary**  
ABC School

### **QUESTION 4.**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

I rested for a moment at the door of Arland Bhavan, on Market Road, where coffee drinkers and tiffin eaters at their tables sat **transfixed**, uttering low moans on

seeing me. I wanted to assure them, 'Don't fear, I am not out to trouble you. Eat your tiffin in peace, don't mind me. You, nearest to me, hugging the cash box, you are craven with fear, afraid even to breathe. Go on, count the cash, if that's your pleasure. I just want to watch that's all. If my 5 tail trails down to the street, if I am blocking your threshold, it is because, I'm told, I'm eleven feet tip to tail. I can't help it. I'm not out to kill. I'm too full. I found a green pasture teeming with food on the way. I won't need any for several days to come, won't stir, riot until I feel hungry again. Tigers attack only when they feel hungry, unlike human beings who slaughter one another without purpose or hunger.

To the great delight of children, schools were being hurriedly closed. Children of all ages and sizes were running **helter-skelter** screaming joyously, "No school, no school. Tiger, tiger!" They were shouting and laughing and even enjoying being scared. They seemed to welcome me.

I felt like joining them. So, I bounded away from the restaurant door and trotted along with them, at which they cried, "The tiger is coming to eat us; let us get back to the school!" I followed them through their school gate while they ran up and shut themselves in the school hall securely. I ascended the steps of the school, saw an open door at the far end of a veranda, and walked in. It happened to be the headmaster's room, I believe, as I noticed a very dignified man jumping on his table and heaving himself up into an attic. I walked in and flung myself on the cool floor, having a partiality for cool stone floors, with my head under the large desk – which gave me the feeling of being back in the Mempi cave. As I dozed, I was aware of cautious steps and hushed voices all around. I was in no mood to be bothered about anything. All I wanted was a little moment of sleep; the daylight was dazzling. In a half sleep, I heard the doors of the room being shut, bolted and locked.

I didn't care. I slept.

While I slept a great deal of consultation was going on. I learnt about it later through my master, who was in the crowd which had gathered after making sure that I had been properly locked up and was watching. The headmaster seems to have remarked some days later "Never dreamt in my wildest mood that I'd have to yield my place to a tiger..." A wag had retorted, "Might be one way of maintaining better discipline among the boys."

'Now that this brute is safely locked up, we must decide', began a teacher. At this moment, my master pushed his way through the crowds and admonished them. "Never use the words 'beast' or 'brute'. They're ugly words coined by humans in their arrogance. Human beings think all other creatures are 'beasts'. Awful word!"



**(i) For each word given below, choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided.**

**1. Helter-skelter (line 12)**

- (a) slowly
- (b) running
- (c) quickly in disorderly fashion
- (d) strolling

**Answer:** (c) quickly in disorderly fashion

**2. Transfixed (line 2)**

- (a) mesmerized
- (b) to be enchanted
- (c) conflicted or confused
- (d) pierced into something

**Answer:** (a) mesmerized

**(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'praised'?**

- (a) cautioned
- (b) admonished
- (c) arrogance
- (d) coined

**Answer:** (b) admonished

**(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.**

**(a) Why were the children delighted?**

**Answer:** Children were delighted because of the fact that the schools were being closed. The reason behind this was not an issue of their concern. They were happy on account of an extra and unexpected holiday.

**(b) Which sentences tell us that the tiger's owner had great respect for the tiger?**

**Answer:** Tiger's owner had immense respect for his tiger. When a teacher referred to the tiger as a brute, in reply the owner shouted and scolded them on using such words for an innocent animal. He said that such kind of words were ugly and human beings always thought of all other creatures as beast. To him it was an awful word.

**(c) In what way are tigers different from human beings?**

**Answer:** Tigers are different from human beings as unlike human they attack only when they feel hungry and not whenever or wherever it is possible. Neither do tigers attack for fun, pleasure or to settle personal grudges among them.

**(d) What reassurance did the tiger give the coffee drinkers?**

**Answer:** The tiger while walking down the road assured the coffee drinkers that he was neither in any mood nor had any necessity to hunt them or frighten them. He wanted them to be calm as his stomach was full and he needed no food at the moment.

**(e) What did the headmaster say some days later?**

**Answer:** Some days later the headmaster remarked that not even in his wildest mood had he expected a tiger coming to his place. He was also surprised on the incident just as the others were.

**(iv) In not more than 50 words, describe the tiger's activities from the time it followed the school children till it slept.**

**Answer:** Following the children, the tiger stepped inside the school gate, saw an open door and entered it. On seeing the tiger, the headmaster jumped up into the attic above. The tiger flung himself on to the cool stone floor with his head under the headmaster's desk and slept as the daylight was dazzling him and he wanted to relax for sometime.

## **QUESTION 5.**

**(i) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word.**

- (a) I waited for my friend \_\_\_\_ 5 p.m., but he didn't turn up.
- (b) I visited most places of tourist interest \_\_\_\_ my stay in Paris.
- (c) There were fifty rooms \_\_\_\_ the hotel.
- (d) I play cricket \_\_\_\_ the Lion's Cricket Club every weekend.
- (e) My friend didn't turn up even \_\_\_\_ 5 p.m.
- (f) I somehow made it \_\_\_\_ the road unscathed despite so much traffic.
- (g) The flight was fine, but the food \_\_\_\_ the plane wasn't good.
- (h) I first saw the newly-launched phone in the shop \_\_\_\_ MG Road.

**Answer:**

- (a) until
- (b) during
- (c) in
- (d) at
- (e) by
- (f) across
- (g) on
- (f) at

**(ii) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with correct form of the words given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.**

**Example :** You should ..... (0) (call) me before.

**Answer :** (0) have called

It is not unusual for all sorts of insects to be called bugs. However, in reality, this name should only ..... (1) (give) to a particular group of insects called Hemiptera.

These insects have tube-like beaks which they use to ..... (2) (suck) sap from the plants on which they ..... (3) (live). Others prey upon other insects by ..... (4) (inject) poison into them.

These insects are brightly ..... (5) (colour) and come in all sizes and shapes.

A nymph, or a young bug, has no wings and cannot ..... (6) (fly). Adult bugs, however, ..... (7) (have) two pairs of wings. When not in use, the hind pair of wings ..... (8) (lie) folded and hidden behind the front pair.

**Answer:**

- (1) be given
- (2) suck
- (3) live
- (4) injecting
- (5) coloured
- (6) fly
- (7) have
- (8) lies

**(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. Choose the correct option.**



**1. My sister works three jobs in a day. She doesn't earn much money.**

- (a) My sister works three jobs in a day; nonetheless, she doesn't earn much money.
- (b) My sister works three jobs in a day; however, she doesn't earn much money.
- (c) My sister works three jobs in a day; consequently, she doesn't earn much money.
- (d) My sister works three jobs in a day; otherwise, she doesn't earn much money

**Answer:** (b) My sister works three jobs in a day; however, she doesn't earn much money.

**2. She is pretty. She is intelligent.**

- (a) She is pretty and she is intelligent.
- (b) She is pretty or intelligent.
- (c) She is neither pretty nor intelligent.
- (d) She is pretty as well as intelligent.

**Answer:** (d) She is pretty as well as intelligent.

**3. He was ill. He attended the meeting.**

- (a) Though he was ill, yet he attended the meeting.
- (b) Though he was ill, but he attended the meeting.
- (c) Though he was ill; however, he attended the meeting.
- (d) Though he was ill, he attended the meeting.

**Answer:** (d) Though he was ill, he attended the meeting.

**4. We went out. The weather was cold.**

- (a) We went out despite of the cold weather.
- (b) We went out despite the cold weather.
- (c) We went out in spite the cold weather.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (b) We went out despite the cold weather.

**(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to instructions given after each sentence.**

1. As soon as he got onto the bus, the driver started the engine.

[Begin with : No sooner....]

- (a) No sooner did he get on the bus, the driver started the engine.
- (b) No sooner did he get on the bus, than the driver started the engine.
- (c) No sooner had he get on the bus, than the driver started the engine.
- (d) No sooner had he get on the bus, the driver started the engine.

**Answer:** (b) No sooner did he get on the bus, than the driver started the engine.

**2. There is no success without effort.**

[Begin with : Whenever .....]

- (a) Whenever there is no effort, there is success.
- (b) Whenever there is effort, there is no success.
- (c) Whenever there is effort, there is success.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (c) Whenever there is effort, there is success.

**3. The sheep ate a lot.**

[Begin with : A lot]

- (a) A lot was eaten by the sheep.
- (b) A lot is eaten by the sheep.
- (c) A lot had been eaten by the sheep.
- (d) A lot is being eaten by the sheep.

**Answer:** (a) A lot was eaten by the sheep.

**4. If you gave me fifty thousand Kenya Shillings, I would not go down a coal mine.**

[Rewrite using : even if]

- (a) Even if I would not go down a coal mine, you gave me fifty thousand Kenya shillings.
- (b) Even if you gave me fifty thousand Kenya shillings, I would go down a coal mine.
- (c) I would not go down a coal mine even if you gave me fifty thousand Kenya shillings.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (c) I would not go down a coal mine even if you gave me fifty thousand Kenya shillings.

**5. Passing examinations is a goal. Every candidate should aim at it.**

[Rewrite using : to]

- (a) Every candidate should aim to pass the examination.
- (b) Every candidate should aim to passing the examination.
- (c) Every candidate should aiming to pass the examination.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (a) Every candidate should aim to pass the examination.

**6. If he apologises, he will be pardoned.**

[Use : unless]

- (a) He will be pardoned unless he apologises.
- (b) He will not be pardoned unless he apologies.
- (c) Unless he will not be pardoned, he apologies.
- (d) Unless he will be pardoned, he apologises.

**Answer:** (b) He will not be pardoned unless he apologies.

**7. He said, 'I am writing a letter.'**

[Begin with : He said that...]

- (a) He said that he is writing a letter.
- (b) He said that he was writing a letter.
- (c) He said that a letter was written by him.
- (d) He said that a letter was being written by him.

**Answer:** (b) He said that he was writing a letter.

**8. Did Sue draw this circle?**

[Begin with : Was]

- (a) Was this circle draw by Sue?
- (b) Was this circle drew by Sue?
- (c) Was this circle being drawn by Sue?
- (d) Was this circle drawn by Sue?

**Answer:** (d) Was this circle drawn by Sue?

**ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION**  
**Sample Question Paper – 2**  
**English Paper – 1**

**Time: 2 Hours**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. Answer to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
4. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
5. Attempt all five questions
6. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].
7. You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

**QUESTION 1.**

**(i) Recently, it was in the news that a hurricane hit USA and around 13 states were affected. Being the Head Girl of your school, draft a notice for the students and staff appealing for donations of relief products like clothes, money, books and other articles in not more than 50 words.**

**Answer:** Attention students and staff,

A devastating hurricane has hit the USA, affecting 13 states. We urge you to help those in need by donating relief supplies. Please bring clothes, money, books, and other essential items to the school office by [date]. Your generosity will make a significant difference.

Thank you, [Your Name] Head Girl

**(ii) Write an email to the principal of the neighbouring school informing him of the event and requesting him to send a team to participate. You are Arpita Choudhary, secretary of St. Andrews School.**

**Answer:**



**Subject: Invitation to Participate in [Event Name] at St. Andrews School**

Dear [Principal's Name],

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to inform you about an exciting event we are organizing at St. Andrews School. As part of our efforts to foster collaboration and friendly competition between neighboring schools, we are hosting [Event Name] on [Date] at [Time] at our school premises.

We would be honored to have your school participate in this event. We believe it will be a wonderful opportunity for students from both our schools to engage, learn, and showcase their talents. The event will include [briefly describe the event format, activities, or competitions involved].

We kindly request you to send a team from your school to participate. Please let us know the number of students and faculty members who would be attending so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

We look forward to your school's participation and hope to make this event a memorable one for all involved.

Thank you for considering our invitation. If you have any questions or need further details, feel free to contact me at [Your Contact Information].

Warm regards,  
Arpita Choudhary  
Secretary, St. Andrews School  
[Your Contact Information]

**QUESTION 2.**

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on it.)

**Select any one of the following.**

**(i) Write a letter to the Director of the Archaeological Survey of India complaining about the damage caused to a historical monument in your city due to negligence.**

**Answer:**

**[Your Name]**

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Date]

The Director

Archaeological Survey of India

[Address]

New Delhi, India

Subject: Complaint Regarding Damage to Historical Monument Due to Negligence

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention the unfortunate and alarming condition of the historical monument, [Name of the Monument], located in [Location], which is an important part of our cultural heritage. It has come to my notice that the monument has been severely damaged due to negligence and a lack of proper maintenance, which I feel requires immediate intervention by the Archaeological Survey of India.

The monument, known for its historical and architectural significance, has been left exposed to the elements without sufficient protective measures. Over time, I have observed cracks in the structure, fading carvings, and the accumulation of dirt and debris. Recently, some parts of the monument have started crumbling, and there are visible signs of erosion on the stonework, which could lead to irreversible damage if not addressed urgently.

Moreover, the surrounding area, which was once a well-maintained site, has also suffered from neglect. The garden, pathways, and fencing that once added to the monument's grandeur are now overgrown with weeds, and the area is littered with garbage.

I kindly request the Archaeological Survey of India to take prompt action to assess the damage and carry out necessary restoration and conservation work. It is vital that immediate steps be taken to prevent further deterioration of this irreplaceable monument, as it holds immense value for the cultural and historical heritage of our city.

I look forward to your urgent attention to this matter and the steps that will be taken to safeguard this historical monument.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,  
[Your Name]

**(ii) Write a letter to Mr. RP Lal, a member of the club, appreciating him for the services rendered to the Lions Club International over past one year. You are PC Jain, President of the Club.**

**Answer:**

**Lions Club International**

[Club Name]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

[Date]

Mr. R.P. Lal

[Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

Dear Mr. Lal,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. As the President of the Lions Club, it gives me immense pleasure to take this opportunity to formally appreciate and acknowledge the exceptional services you have rendered to our esteemed organization over the past year.

Your unwavering dedication and commitment to the values of the Lions Club International have made a significant impact, not only within our club but in the community at large. Your leadership, innovative ideas, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in successfully organizing several initiatives that have contributed immensely to our mission of serving others.

The success of our community projects, especially the recent health camps and educational programs, is a testament to your hard work and leadership. Your ability to mobilize resources, coordinate activities, and rally fellow members around important causes has set a remarkable example of selfless service.

Moreover, your infectious enthusiasm and positive attitude have been an inspiration to all of us. You have consistently gone above and beyond, volunteering your time and expertise, and have proven to be an invaluable asset to our team. Your contributions have certainly enhanced the reputation of our club, and we are proud to have you as a member of our Lions family.

On behalf of all the members of the Lions Club International, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your dedication and service. We look forward to continuing to work alongside you in the year ahead, as we strive to make an even greater impact.

Wishing you continued success and good health.

Warm regards,  
PC Jain  
President, Lions Club International  
[Club Name]

### **QUESTION 3.**

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following.

**(i) You went to the bank one morning for some work. While you were there, some robbers entered the bank to rob it but they were caught red-handed due to your presence of mind. Describe the robbery in your own words. Give it a suitable title.**

**Answer:**

**Title: The Bank Heist Thwarted**

It was a quiet morning when I walked into the bank to handle some personal business. The air inside was calm, the usual hum of the machines and the soft chatter of the bank staff setting the routine scene. I headed toward the customer service counter, waiting for my turn when the door swung open with an unusual force. Three men walked in, their movements swift but calculated. At first glance, they appeared to be ordinary customers, but something in their eyes told a different story.

As I glanced around, I noticed that their actions were out of place. One of them was unusually tense, his hand brushing the bulge beneath his jacket, and that



was when I realized something was wrong. I immediately focused my attention on their every movement. The two men flanked the counter while the third, wearing a cap pulled low over his face, subtly approached the nearest bank teller.

Within moments, the man in front of the teller pulled out a small gun and waved it toward the staff, shouting commands in a voice that was too urgent to be calm. The tellers froze, their faces draining of color. My heart raced as I processed the situation, but I knew I had to act quickly. I subtly pulled out my phone and, while trying to remain as calm as possible, texted the police, providing the bank's address and describing the scene.

The robbers were too focused on their demands to notice my actions. I kept my eyes fixed on them, trying not to make them aware of my growing suspicion. One of the other customers in the bank quietly took out their phone and started recording, while the third robber stood near the exit, keeping watch.

It wasn't long before the sound of sirens wailed in the distance. The robbers, now realizing that something was off, tried to make a break for it. But by then, the police had surrounded the building. As they stormed in, the robbers were arrested before they could escape.

Thanks to quick thinking and the help of others in the bank, what could have been a terrifying robbery was averted without anyone getting hurt. It was a day I would never forget—an example of how a moment of calm and attention can make all the difference.

**(ii) “Technology has made us overly dependent on its existence” Express your views either for or against this statement.**

**Answer:** Against the Statement: Technology has not made us overly dependent on its existence.

While it's true that technology has become deeply integrated into our lives, claiming that it has made us overly dependent oversimplifies the issue. Technology, in essence, is a tool designed to make life more efficient, accessible, and innovative. Rather than rendering us helpless without it, it has expanded our capabilities and provided us with opportunities to enhance our lives in numerous ways.

Firstly, technology has empowered individuals with tools that have improved productivity, communication, and creativity. From smartphones to advanced medical equipment, technology facilitates tasks that were once labor-intensive or inaccessible. For instance, communication across long distances, whether through video calls or social media, has brought people closer, enriching relationships and allowing collaboration on a global scale. These innovations aren't just indulgences; they are tools that offer freedom and flexibility. People no longer need to be confined to specific places or times to interact, work, or create.

Furthermore, technology has been a key driver in solving some of the world's most pressing challenges. In healthcare, advancements like telemedicine, AI-driven diagnostics, and gene editing are saving lives and improving treatment outcomes. In education, online learning platforms have made education more accessible to people around the world, particularly in remote or underserved areas. These breakthroughs are not signs of dependency, but rather of progress.

Even if we look at the broader societal changes, technology has not made us dependent; it has provided opportunities for growth and adaptation. Human resilience and adaptability have always been central traits, and technology has merely complemented this. The fact that many people can function without certain tech tools (for instance, by choosing to go offline or use technology minimally) shows that we retain the ability to thrive without excessive reliance on any single tool.

Lastly, dependency suggests a lack of control or choice, but technology offers just the opposite. The increasing availability of tools to control and customize our experiences—whether through automation, personalization, or alternative forms of tech use—demonstrates that technology enhances rather than restricts human agency.

In conclusion, technology has not made us overly dependent. It has, instead, broadened our horizons, increased our capabilities, and allowed us to adapt to an ever-changing world. The focus should be on using technology responsibly and thoughtfully, rather than assuming it has a negative influence on our independence.

**(iii) You have been living in your ancestral home since birth. It is being acquired by the government because the Metro line has to pass through the area. Narrate the incident and describe your feelings about moving out of this house.**

**Answer:** I have lived in this house my entire life. It was where I was born, where I learned to walk, and where countless memories were created. The walls of this ancestral home hold stories of my family—generations before me have lived, loved, and laughed within its embrace. The old wooden floors creak with history, the garden is alive with the fruits of years of labor, and every nook and cranny feels like a piece of me. But now, everything is changing. The government has decided to acquire this property for the Metro line that will pass through the area.

At first, it was hard to believe. The notice arrived with official language, numbers, and dates, but it didn't feel real. It still doesn't, in many ways. The thought of leaving this house, my home, is an unsettling one. The emotions are difficult to articulate. There's a deep sadness, a kind of grief, for the place that has always been my sanctuary. As a child, I ran through these rooms, exploring every corner. As an adult, it became the steady anchor in my life. This house has seen me through every high and low, and now, I have to say goodbye.

The news feels like an uprooting. It's not just the bricks and mortar I'm losing; it's the connection to my past, my heritage, the family memories that I can never bring with me. I imagine walking out of the front door for the last time, knowing I'll never return. I'll miss the familiar hum of the neighborhood, the distant sound of laughter from family gatherings, the scent of the garden in the early mornings.

There's a sense of uncertainty about the future now. I feel conflicted about leaving—grateful for the opportunity to start fresh, but heartbroken to abandon the place that shaped me. The thought of making a new home, while necessary, doesn't quite ease the ache of leaving the old one behind.

**(iv) Write an original short story entitled 'A Silver Key'.**

**Answer:** It was a very stormy night, with the wind howling and the rain falling incessantly. A traveller had got down at the town's bus stand and was looking for a place to stay. Then, he saw the signboard of a dharmshala just a few yards



down the road so he went there to seek shelter. He was highly disappointed to find the door locked from inside. However, he could see a light shining inside through a closed window. So, he knocked loudly on the door. Someone, who the traveller assumed was the keeper of the dharmshala, called out from inside, "I am sorry; I am unable to open the door because I have lost the key."

The traveller replied, "But, I want to stay the night here. I am totally soaked due to the rain. Please allow me inside." The keeper replied, "I'm sorry but the door can only be unlocked with a silver key. Do you have a silver key?" The traveller, who was quite intelligent, understood what was wanted of him. He put his hand inside his pocket and brought out a silver one rupee coin. He pushed this coin under the front door. Sure enough, it brought the desired result. Soon, the front door opened and the traveller was allowed to enter.

The dharmshala keeper was standing at the door with a smug smile on his face. He said, "Welcome to the only dharmshala in this town." As soon as the traveller got inside, he thanked the keeper and requested him to bring in his suitcase. The keeper went outside to get it. As soon as the keeper stepped outside, the traveller shut the door and locked it. The keeper shouted from outside, "What kind of joke is this? Open the door immediately!"

"It is not a joke", answered the traveller. "I am sorry, I have lost the key. The door can be opened only with a silver key." The keeper had to push the silver coin under the door. The traveller, only after getting his rupee back, let the dishonest man in.

**(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it but there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.**



**Answer: A Cruise at sea goes wrong**

The given picture shows a ship sinking in the sea. This is a real incident which I encountered when my family decided to take a holiday by cruising around the Mediterranean Sea to know more about Europe at a leisurely pace. The cruise ship MV Sharda had started from Rome carrying over 400 passengers around the islands in the Mediterranean Sea for a 10-day trip. As it was my first time on a cruise ship, I was rather apprehensive about falling seasick. However, my parents said that I would get used to sea soon enough and would enjoy the trip. In addition, I would learn a lot about European history and visit some of the historic places which I had so far seen only in History books. We absorbed much of history and culture with each passing day of our trip. On the 7th day of the trip, we docked at the port of Aegina. It was a warm and sunny day; we were eating lunch in a restaurant on the upper deck. I finished my pudding and went to the bridge of the ship to look around.

Suddenly, I heard loud screams and there was a violent jerk such that I lost my balance and fell hitting my head on the deck. It appeared as if something heavy had struck the ship. Soon, the ship started to tilt and go down. I was suddenly reminded of a similar scene in the movie 'Titanic'. So, I quickly stood up and went down to the restaurant just below. The door was jammed and I had to kick it open. Everything was in a mess; some tables had fallen down and water was streaming in. Suddenly, I heard the captain's voice shouting for everyone to evacuate the ship immediately. Luckily, as we were docked, we could climb out on the jetty where we were berthed.

#### QUESTION 4.

(i) In the following passage, fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.

#### Example :

There ..... (0) (be) some confusion in the hall when I entered there.

**Answer :** (0) was

The car ..... (1) (slow) down at the curve. There ..... (2) (be) a large crowd at the place. I ..... (3) (get) down from the car to see what ..... (4) (happen) A man was ..... (5) (lay) on the road injured. He was ..... (6) (shout) for help but ..... (7) (unfortunate) no one was willing to ..... (8) (come) forward and rush him to the hospital.

**Answer:** (1) slowed

(2) was

(3) got

(4) had happened

(5) lying

(6) Shouting

(7) unfortunately

(8) come

#### (ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

(a) The steps are in \_\_\_\_ of the drawing room door.

(b) The basement is \_\_\_\_ the drawing room of the house.

(c) The people are sitting \_\_\_\_ the table \_\_\_\_ the dining room.

(d) The children's bedroom is \_\_\_\_ the attic \_\_\_\_ the third floor.

(e) The tools are hung \_\_\_\_ the wooden nail board.

(f) The wooden nail board is \_\_\_\_ the basement.

(g) The washing machine is \_\_\_\_ the main bathroom.

(h) The stairs to the roof are \_\_\_\_ the bathroom \_\_\_\_ the second floor.

**Answer:** (a) front

(b) under/below/beneath

(c) at, in

(d) under, on



(e) on

(f) in

(g) in

(h) beside, on

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without using and, but or so.**

**Choose the correct option.**

**1. I went to the clinic yesterday. I met my former colleague Ravinder there.**

(a) Since I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.

(b) Whenever I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.

(c) When I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.

(d) As I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.

**Answer:** (c) When I went to the clinic yesterday, I met my former colleague Ravinder there.

**2. Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest. His family protested outside the priest's house.**

(a) Because Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.

(b) Although Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.

(c) Whenever Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.

(d) While Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.

**Answer:** (a) Because Salim was thrown out of the community hall by the priest, his family protested outside the priest's house.

**3. Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer. Her mother wanted her to become a doctor.**

(a) Her mother wanted her to become a doctor yet Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer.

(b) Although Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer, her mother wanted her to

become a doctor.

(c) Since Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer, her mother wanted her to become a doctor.

(d) Her mother wanted her to a doctor despite Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer.

**Answer:** (b) Although Saroja was a skilled Kathak dancer, her mother wanted her to become a doctor.

**4. Mihir worked day and night on his project. The supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.**

(a) Though Mihir worked day and night on his project yet the supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

(b) Although Mihir worked day and night on his project, but the supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

(c) Though Mihir worked day and night on his project, the supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

(d) None of the above

**Answer:** (c) Though Mihir worked day and night on his project, the supervisor selected Jagdish's project for the exhibition.

**(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to the instructions given after each sentence.**

**1. A father is wrong to scold his child without reason.**

[Begin with: A father ought....]

(a) A father ought to scold his child without reason.

(b) A father ought not to scold her child without reason.

(c) A father ought not to scold his child without reasoning.

(d) A father ought not to scold his child without reason.

**Answer:** (d) A father ought not to scold his child without reason.

**2. The day was so nice that we went on a picnic.**

[Use : such]

(a) It was such a nice day that we went on a picnic.

(b) It was such a nice day than we went on a picnic.

- (c) The day was such nice that we went on a picnic.
- (d) The day was such nice than we went on a picnic.

**Answer:** (a) It was such a nice day that we went on a picnic.

**3. They did not like to pay extra taxes.**

[Use : objected]

- (a) They did not objected to paying extra taxes.
- (b) They objected to paying extra taxes.
- (c) They did object to paying extra taxes.
- (d) They did objected to paying extra taxes.

**Answer:** (b) They objected to paying extra taxes.

**4. He locked the gate so that the dog wouldn't escape.**

[Use : prevent]

- (a) He locked the gate for prevent the dog from escaping.
- (b) He locked the gate for prevent the dog from not escaping.
- (c) He locked the gate to prevent the dog from not escaping.
- (d) He locked the gate to prevent the dog from escaping.

**Answer:** (d) He locked the gate to prevent the dog from escaping.

**5. I didn't hear from him for ten years. I received his e-mail.**

[Rewrite using: when]

- (a) I hadn't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.
- (b) I haven't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.
- (c) I didn't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.
- (d) I didn't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.

**Answer:** (a) I hadn't heard from him for ten years when I received his e-mail.

**6. He really likes correcting her English.**

[Use : pleasure]

- (a) He really likes pleasure in correcting her English.
- (b) There is pleasure for him correcting English.
- (c) He takes pleasure to correct her English.
- (d) He takes pleasure in correcting her English.



**Answer:** (d) He takes pleasure in correcting her English.

**7. All I want you to do is to look after my dog.**

[Use : care]

- (a) All I want you to do is to look care of my dog.
- (b) All I want you to do is to take care of my dog.
- (c) All I want you to do is care of my dog.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (b) All I want you to do is to take care of my dog.

**8. She started studying drama three years ago.**

[Rewrite using : been]

- (a) She was been studying drama for three years.
- (b) She was been studied drama for three years.
- (c) She has been studying drama for three years.
- (d) All of the above

**Answer:** (c) She has been studying drama for three years.

## **QUESTION 5.**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow**

They pass me every day, on their way to school - boys and girls from the surrounding villages and the outskirts of the hill station. There are no school buses for these children : they walk.

For many of them, it's a very long walk to school.

Ranbir, who is ten, has to climb the mountain from his village, four miles distant and two thousand feet below the town level. He comes in all kinds of weathers wearing the same pair of cheap shoes until they have almost fallen apart.

Ranbir is a cheerful soul. He waves to me whenever he sees me at my window.

Sometimes he brings me cucumbers from his father's field. I pay him for the cucumbers; he uses the money for books or for small things needed at home.

Many of the children are like Ranbir - poor, but slightly better off than what their parents were at the same age. They cannot attend the expensive residential and private schools that abound here, but must go to the government-aided schools with only basic facilities. Not many of their parents managed to go to school. They spent their lives working in the fields or delivering milk in the hill station.

The lucky ones got into the army. Perhaps Ranbir will do something different when he grows up. He has yet to see a train but he sees planes flying over the mountains almost every day.

"How far can a plane go?", he asks.

"All over the world" I tell him. "Thousands of miles in a day, you can go almost anywhere."

"I'll go round the world one day" he vows. "I'll buy a plane and go everywhere!"

And maybe he will. He has a determined chin and a **defiant** look in his eye. Up to a few years ago, very few girls in the hills or in the villages of India went to school. They helped in the home until they were old enough to be married, which wasn't very old. But there are now just as many girls as there are boys going to school.

Bindra is something of an extrovert a confident fourteen-year-old who chatters away as she hurries down the road with her companions. Her father is a forest guard and knows me quite well : I meet him on my walks through the deodar woods behind Landour. And I had grown used to seeing Bindra almost every day. When she did not put in an appearance for a week, 30 I asked her brother if anything was wrong. "Oh, nothing," he says, "she is helping my mother cut grass. Soon the monsoon will end and the grass will dry up. So, we cut it now and store it for the cows in winter."

"And why aren't you cutting grass too?"

"Oh, I have a cricket match today" he says, and hurries away to join his teammates.

Unlike his sister, he puts pleasure before work! Cricket, once the game of the elite, has become the game of the masses. On any holiday, in any part of this

vast country, groups of boys can be seen making their way to the nearest field, or open patch of land, with bat, ball and any other cricketing gear that they can cobble together. Watching some of them play I am amazed at the quality of talent, at the finesse with which they bat or bowl.

Some of the local teams are as good, if not better than any from the private schools, where there are better facilities. But boys from these poor or lower middle-class families will never get the exposure that is necessary to bring them to the attention of those who select state or national teams. They will never get near enough to the men of influence and power. They must continue to play for the love of the game, or watch their more fortunate heroes' exploits on television.

**(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided.**

**1. defiant (line 23)**

- (a) the act of being rebellious
- (b) to be compliant
- (c) to be cooperative
- (d) to be tractable

**Answer:** (a) the act of being rebellious

**2. elite (line 36)**

- (a) middle class
- (b) upper or high class
- (c) proletariat
- (d) the masses

**Answer:** (b) upper or high class

**(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'ineptness'?**

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| (a) finesse  | (b) influence |
| (c) exposure | (d) fortunate |

**Answer::** (a) finesse

**(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.**

**(a) In what way was her brother different from Bindra?**

**Answer:** Bindra's brother was different from her as he gave more importance to pleasure than that to work.

**(b) How has the fate of girls changed?**

**Answer:** The fate of the girls in these mountains has changed. Till a few years back, very few girls in the hills or in the villages went to school. They helped at home till they were old enough to be married but now a proportionate number of girls and boys went to school.

**(c) What was Ranbir's ambition?**

**Answer:** Ranbir's ambition was to buy a plane and go all over the world, flying in it. The planes flying over the mountains fascinated him and he too wanted to travel in them.

**(d) In what way are children better off than their parents?**

**Answer:** The children of the mountains are better off than their parents as they at least go to the government schools while their parents had not attended any school.

**(e) Why does the author call the heroes on television 'fortunate'?**

**Answer:** The narrator is amazed at the quality of talent which the village boys display while playing cricket.

**(iv) In not more than 50 words, relate what difficulties the children face in their daily lives. How does the author feel about it?**

**Answer:** The children living in remote areas face many difficulties due to lack of school buses, such as walking long distances, including climbing hills, walking without shoes during rainy season. Earlier, parents could not attend the school at all as they had to work for their survival. Girls, now attend the school on regular basis and yet, when it comes to helping in household or field work, they are found helping their mothers not the boys.



**ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION**  
**Sample Question Paper – 3**  
**English Paper – 1**

**Time: 2 Hours**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. Answer to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
4. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
5. Attempt all five questions
6. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].
7. You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

**QUESTION 1.**

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on it.)

**Select any one of the following.**

**(i) You are Priyansh Sharma, a resident of 89, Sector 5, Sector RK Puram, New Delhi. You are interested in joining the course in Communication Skills advertised by the Elite School of Language, South Extension-II. Write a letter of enquiry for the same. (100-120 words)**

**Answer:**

Priyansh Sharma  
89, Sector 5,  
Sector RK Puram,  
New Delhi – 110022  
10th December 2024

The Director,  
Elite School of Language,  
South Extension-II,  
New Delhi

Subject: Enquiry about Communication Skills Course

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inquire about the Communication Skills course advertised by your esteemed institution. I am keen to enhance my communication abilities for both personal and professional growth. I would like to know the course duration, fee structure, and the schedule of classes. Additionally, please provide details regarding the course content and any prerequisites.

I would appreciate it if you could send me the required information at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,  
Priyansh Sharma

**(ii) Write a letter to your friend, Sunil who has recently lost his job, sympathising with him and encouraging to have better times in future. You are Anmol.**

**Answer:**

Dear Sunil,

I was deeply saddened to hear about the loss of your job. I can only imagine how tough and frustrating this must be for you, and I want you to know that I'm thinking of you during this difficult time.

Losing a job can feel like a setback, but I want to remind you that it's not the end of the road. It's just a phase, and you've always been someone with the drive, intelligence, and determination to overcome any challenge. I believe that better opportunities are waiting for you out there, even if it might not seem like it right now.

Take some time to process what has happened, but don't let it discourage you. Remember that even in moments of adversity, new doors often open, and this could be the perfect moment for you to explore a new career path or even pursue something you've always been passionate about. You've got a lot of skills and qualities that are in demand, and I'm confident that your next job will be even more fulfilling.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you ever need someone to talk to, whether it's to vent, brainstorm, or just hang out. I'm here for you, as

always. Take care of yourself, and remember that things will get better soon. Sometimes, the hardest times in life lead to the best outcomes.

I'm rooting for you, Sunil. I know that you will bounce back stronger than ever.

With all my support and best wishes,

Anmol

## **QUESTION 2.**

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

**Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following.**

**(i) Write an original short story starting with the words 'If only I had told the truth \_\_\_\_.**

### **Answer:**

If only I had told the truth, maybe she would still be here.

I never meant to hurt anyone. It was a mistake, a careless, thoughtless mistake. But when I saw her that day, standing in the doorway with that hopeful look on her face, I knew she trusted me. I could feel it in the way she looked at me, the way she had always looked at me. I had her heart, and I was too scared to break it.

"Did you ever love me?" she had asked, her voice barely a whisper, like she feared the answer.

I could have told her the truth. I could have said that, yes, I did love her once, maybe even still did, but I wasn't the person she thought I was. I could have confessed that I wasn't ready for commitment, that I wasn't capable of being the man she deserved. But I didn't.

Instead, I smiled, the kind of smile that didn't reach my eyes. "Of course, I did."

And she believed me. She always believed me. But somewhere deep inside, I knew I was lying, and the guilt gnawed at me every day after.

Weeks passed, and things between us stayed the same. But the tension grew. I could feel the cracks in our relationship, and I couldn't ignore them anymore. Then one evening, she disappeared. No warning. No explanation. Just gone.

I searched everywhere, but it was as if she had evaporated. It wasn't until months later that I found the note. In her handwriting, the words were simple, yet they cut deeper than any accusation.

*I know you didn't love me the way I loved you. I couldn't stay with someone who wasn't honest.*

I'd never seen the truth more clearly.

If only I had told her then, maybe things would have been different. Maybe we could have found a way to heal. Instead, I've been left to live with my lie.

**(ii) 'Brain drain is adversely affecting India's development.'**

**Express your views for or against this statement.**

**Answer: For the Statement:**

Brain drain refers to the migration of skilled professionals, including scientists, engineers, doctors, and IT specialists, from developing nations like India to developed countries in search of better career opportunities, higher salaries, and improved living standards. This phenomenon has a significant adverse effect on India's development.

1. **Loss of Human Capital:** India invests heavily in educating and training its citizens. However, when skilled individuals leave the country, it leads to a depletion of human capital. Many sectors such as healthcare, technology, and education face shortages of qualified professionals. For example, India's healthcare system is already under strain, and the emigration of doctors and medical professionals exacerbates this problem, reducing the quality of services available to the population.
2. **Impact on Innovation and Research:** Brain drain also negatively impacts the nation's research and development (R&D) sectors. With many highly skilled individuals pursuing careers abroad, the flow of innovative ideas and technological advancements within India slows down. India's competitiveness in global markets diminishes, and it becomes more challenging to maintain leadership in industries such as IT, biotechnology, and space technology.
3. **Economic Costs:** When talented individuals migrate, India loses potential tax revenue as these professionals now contribute to the economies of other countries. This creates a vicious cycle where the country faces fewer contributions from skilled workers to drive its economic growth.
4. **Weakening Social Infrastructure:** Brain drain also affects social sectors like education and public service. India has long struggled with issues like overcrowded schools and underfunded public services. The departure of skilled individuals further weakens these sectors, making it harder to address the country's pressing socio-economic challenges.



### **Against the Statement:**

While brain drain does present challenges, it is not entirely detrimental to India's development.

1. **Global Networks and Knowledge Transfer:** Indians working abroad often return with new skills, knowledge, and expertise. These individuals bring valuable global experience that can be leveraged to boost India's economy upon their return. They often invest in Indian start-ups and contribute to the nation's R&D efforts.
2. **Remittances and Economic Benefits:** Many skilled professionals who migrate send remittances back to their families in India. These remittances play a vital role in supporting the Indian economy, especially in rural areas, by improving the standard of living and promoting local businesses.
3. **Encouraging Global Integration:** Brain drain allows India to integrate into global talent networks, strengthening its global presence. Indian professionals contribute to international companies and bring back valuable connections and insights that can benefit Indian industries.

**(iii) Your house is near a river. Everyday, you see people using sail boats to go across or riding for fun. You got an opportunity to learn how to sail using a sail boat. Narrate your experience.**

**Answer:** It was a bright and breezy morning when I got the opportunity to learn how to sail. The river near my house had always been a peaceful sight, with people gliding across its calm waters on their sailboats. I had watched them for years, fascinated by their graceful movements, and now, finally, I was going to experience it for myself.

I met my instructor, a seasoned sailor, who greeted me with a warm smile and a sense of excitement. He showed me the sailboat, a small but sturdy vessel, and explained its components—the mast, the sail, the rudder, and the tiller. His instructions were clear, but I was filled with a mixture of anticipation and nervousness.

As we set out from the riverbank, the first thing I noticed was the wind. It wasn't just a gentle breeze—it was a force that could guide the boat, but also challenge my control over it. I gripped the tiller, the wooden handle that would steer the boat, and adjusted the sail as directed. The boat shifted slightly as I adjusted the sail to catch the wind. The sensation was exhilarating.

At first, I struggled with the basics—keeping the boat steady, understanding how to turn with the wind, and how to shift the sail when needed. But with each mistake, I learned. The instructor patiently guided me, pointing out how to read the water's current and the changing direction of the wind. Slowly, I began to understand the rhythm of sailing—the way the boat responded to subtle changes in the wind, the way the water slipped past the hull.

As I gained confidence, I started to feel a sense of freedom. The boat became an extension of myself, and I was no longer just a passenger. I was the one in control, steering through the waves, listening to the wind, and feeling the river beneath me. The day flew by, and when I finally returned to shore, I felt a rush of accomplishment. Sailing wasn't just a skill—it was an art, a dance with nature. I couldn't wait to sail again.

**(iv) During summer holidays, your family had planned to visit your grandfather's place which is in Himachal Pradesh. Your father decided to travel by road in his own car. Describe the journey and your experience during it.**

**Answer:**

During the summer holidays, my family and I decided to visit my grandfather's place in Himachal Pradesh, a beautiful hill station in northern India. My father chose to travel by road, as he believed it would give us the chance to enjoy the scenic beauty of the hills along the way.

The journey began early in the morning. We packed the car with snacks, water bottles, and our luggage. The excitement in the air was palpable, especially as we set off on a road trip that promised adventure and breathtaking views. The weather was perfect for a drive — not too hot, with a cool breeze as we left the plains behind and started climbing the winding roads of the hills.

As we entered Himachal Pradesh, the landscape transformed. The roads became narrower and steeper, but they were lined with tall pine trees and lush greenery. We passed through charming villages, where we saw traditional wooden houses with sloping roofs and children playing outside. The fresh air, tinged with the scent of pine and wildflowers, was invigorating. The higher we went, the more beautiful the scenery became. The mountains, covered with mist, stood tall against the sky, and small rivers meandered alongside the road, creating a tranquil atmosphere.

At various spots, we stopped to admire the view and take photos. My younger sibling and I spent time spotting animals like monkeys and colorful birds along the way. We also tasted local food, such as fresh fruit, which added a new flavor to the journey.

Although the journey was long and tiring, the constant changing of scenery kept our spirits high. The road, though sometimes challenging due to sharp bends and occasional landslides, added to the thrill. By the time we reached my grandfather's house, we were exhausted but happy.

The journey was an unforgettable experience, filled with scenic beauty, bonding moments, and a sense of accomplishment. It made us appreciate nature's grandeur and created lasting memories of a road trip through the enchanting hills of Himachal Pradesh.

**(v) Study the picture given below Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it but there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.**



**Answer:** Vehicular Pollution and its Effects The picture shows vehicles leaving a trail of smoke which leads to pollution. Vehicular pollution has become one of the most common environmental issues, especially in highly populated locations in cities and towns. Vehicles idling at stop lights, older and inadequately maintained vehicles, as well as diesel vehicles are the worst contributors to the vehicular pollution problem. People who are constantly exposed to vehicular pollution are reported to suffer from serious respiratory problems, allergies and general sickness.

Poor air quality increases respiratory ailments such as asthma and bronchitis; it also increases the risk of life-threatening conditions such as cancer and burdens our healthcare system with substantial medical costs. Particulate matter emissions from diesel vehicles are solely responsible for more than 30000 premature deaths every year. It is not only affecting the adults but also the immunity of children; thus, affecting the life expectancy levels of the population.



contributor as they produce significant amounts of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and other pollutants. Transportation contributes to more than half of the carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides and almost a quarter of the hydrocarbons emitted into the air. Clean vehicle and fuel technologies provide us with an affordable, available means of reducing transportation-related air pollution and climate change emissions. These include fuel-efficient vehicles that use less oil, cleaner fuels that produce fewer emissions such as CNG and electric cars and trucks that can entirely remove tailpipe emissions.

### **QUESTION 3.**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Apollo Hospital group has installed the world's most advanced Cyberknife robotic radio surgery system at the Cancer Speciality Centre in Chennai, India. Although it meant a substantial cost for the hospital, Apollo decided to go ahead with the project due to the new-found enthusiasm for robotics in India. From the Chandrayaan-I project for sending robots to the Moon to biomedical engineering and the auto industry, India has been using robotics on a wide scale.

In an increasingly technology-driven country, robotics has fast assumed **significance** not only for industrial applications, but also for using in various day-to-day human activities. According to the Oxford Dictionary, robotics is the branch of technology that deals with the design, construction, operation, structural disposition, manufacture and application of robots.

The word robotics was derived from the word robot. It was first used in print by Isaac Asimov, in his science fiction story 'Liar!' published in May 1941, in the magazine Astounding Science Fiction. Today, it is a confluence of science using the continuing advancements of mechanical engineering, material science, sensor fabrication, manufacturing techniques and advanced algorithms

Presently, robotics is at the **pinnacle** of technical development. Though robotics in India is at a nascent stage, industrial automation in India has opened up a huge potential for robotics. Innovation coupled with consolidated research and development has catapulted India's scientific position in robotic technology to a very high level. Analysts claim that the Indian manufacturing industry has been growing at an average rate of 10 percent to 12 percent per year and the global market for robots is projected to rise by an average of 4.2 percent, while in India, the industry is expected to grow at a rate 2.5 times that of the global average.

In medicine, the importance of robotics has been growing. Robotic surgery is a new and exciting emerging technology that holds significant promise. Robots are



increasingly being used in a variety of clinical and surgical settings for increasing surgical accuracy and decreasing operating times. Often they create better healthcare outcomes than standard current approaches. Robotic technology will have a tremendous social and cultural impact on the future of healthcare. In providing healthcare, robots are expected to augment traditional treatment, resulting in humans and robots working side by side. It has been proven that robotic systems have benefited our society in many ways. For instance, some robots have helped children with developmental disabilities, others have improved the health status of people where as with different deficiencies. People who have experienced therapy robots in their lives have commented that robots brought confidence in their lives as well as solved problems related to health.

The other fact is that in some industrial countries robots are helping children with deficiencies to develop faster and have positively influenced their behaviour.

Experts predict that by 2020, robots will become more intelligent and irreplaceable as they would perform most household chores such as laundry and home maintenance.

They would provide valuable services for children and elderly people. Thus, in the future, robots promise to play an important role in our lives.

**(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided.**

**1. significance (line 7)**

- (a) something trivial
- (b) importance
- (c) something that is unimportant
- (d) something that is minute

**Answer:** (b) importance

**2. pinnacle (line 17)**

- (a) nadir
- (b) trough
- (c) zenith
- (d) highest point

**Answer:** (d) highest point

**(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'surplus'?**

- (a) augment
- (b) catapulted

- (c) deficiencies
- (d) disabilities

**Answer:** (c) deficiencies

**(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.**

**(a) Why are robots being increasingly used in clinical surgeries?**

**Answer:** Robots are increasingly used in clinical surgeries due to their precision, flexibility, and minimally invasive capabilities. Robotic systems, such as the da Vinci Surgical System, allow surgeons to perform complex procedures with enhanced accuracy, reducing the risk of human error. They provide better visualization through high-definition, 3D imaging and allow for smaller incisions, leading to quicker recovery times, reduced pain, and fewer complications. Additionally, robots enable remote surgeries, increasing access to specialized care. The integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning further improves surgical outcomes and decision-making, driving the growing adoption of robotic-assisted surgery.

**(b) What is the current scientific position of India in robotic technology?**

**Answer:** The current scientific position of India in robotic technology is that it is at a very high level, as Indian manufacturing industry has been growing at an average rate of 10% to 12%, which is 2.5 times that of the global average.

**(c) In which sectors has India been using robotics?**

**Answer:** India has been using robotics in the sectors of space exploration, biomedical engineering and the automobile industry. Recently, Apollo Hospital Group has installed world's most advanced Cyberknife robotic radio surgery system in a Cancer Speciality Centre in Chennai.

**(d) What does 'robotics' mean?**

**Answer:** Robotics is the field of engineering and technology focused on the design, construction, operation, and use of robots. Robots are machines programmed to carry out tasks autonomously or with minimal human intervention. This interdisciplinary field combines mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science, and artificial intelligence to create systems that can perform tasks ranging from simple repetitive actions to complex decision-making processes. Robotics has applications in industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, space exploration, and entertainment.

**(e) Which word or phrase in the passage denotes that setting up a radio surgery system was an expensive deal for Apollo Hospital group?**

**Answer:** The phrase in the passage that denotes that it was an expensive deal is 'substantial cost' in the first paragraph.

**(iv) Describe in your own words the present scenario of robotic technology in India and its growing influence in medicine. Do not exceed 50 words.**

**Answer:** Robotic technology in India is advancing rapidly, especially in medicine. Robotic-assisted surgeries, telemedicine, and AI-driven diagnostics are improving precision, reducing recovery time, and expanding healthcare access. Leading hospitals are adopting robotic systems for minimally invasive surgeries, transforming healthcare delivery and patient outcomes nationwide.

#### **QUESTION 4.**

**(i) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with correct form of the words given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.**

**Example :** Coffee is a beverage ..... (0) (drink) by many past generations of people.

**Answer :** (0) drunk

What most people do not realise is that coffee is ..... (1) (make) from beans ..... (2) (pick) from trees. Coffee trees ..... (3) (grow) either from seeds or cuttings. These trees will begin to ..... (4) (bear) crops when they are about four years old.

Workers on coffee plantations have to pick the beans by hand. After the beans ..... (5) (gather), they are ..... (6) (roast) at high temperatures. This process ..... (7) (give) them their fragrance.

The best coffee is made from freshly ..... (8) (grind) beans. There are many different ways of preparing coffee. Coffee can be served either with or without milk.

**Answer:**

- (1) made
- (2) picked
- (3) are grown
- (4) bear
- (5) are gathered/have been gathered
- (6) roasted
- (7) gives
- (8) grounded

**(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word.**

(a) An old feud existed \_\_\_\_ the two families.



- (b) He travelled seventy miles \_\_\_\_ two hours.
- (c) I saw him felling a big tree \_\_\_\_ a hatchet.
- (d) I slept \_\_\_\_ nine o'clock.
- (e) I commenced work \_\_\_\_ 1st May.
- (f) I received this message \_\_\_\_ 7 o'clock in the morning.
- (g) We walked \_\_\_\_ the end of the street.
- (h) The child has been missing \_\_\_\_ yesterday.

**Answer:**

- (a) between
- (b) in
- (c) with
- (d) till/until
- (e) from
- (f) at
- (g) to
- (h) since

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without using** and, but or so. Choose the correct option.

**1. I've never been to the US. I have friends and relatives there.**

- (a) I've never been to the US despite of having friends and relatives there.
- (b) I've never been to the US while I have friends and relatives there.
- (c) I've never been to the US in spite of having friends and relatives there.
- (d) I've never been to the US after having friends and relatives there.

**Answer:** (c) I've never been to the US in spite of having friends and relatives there.

**2. He is a reckless driver. He hasn't had any accidents.**

- (a) Even though he is a reckless driver, yet he hasn't had any accidents.
- (b) Though he is a reckless driver, he hasn't had any accidents.
- (c) He is a reckless driver; moreover, he hasn't had any accidents.
- (d) He is a reckless driver; therefore, he hasn't had any accidents.

**Answer:** (b) Though he is a reckless driver, he hasn't had any accidents.

**3. Alice seems to be quite intelligent. She often gets poor grades.**

- (a) Alice seems to be quite intelligent; otherwise, she often gets poor grades.
- (b) Alice seems quite intelligent; therefore, she often gets poor grades.
- (c) Alice seems quite intelligent; nonetheless, she often gets poor grades.
- (d) Though Alice seems quite intelligent, but she often gets poor grades.



**Answer:** (c) Alice seems quite intelligent; nonetheless, she often gets poor grades.

**4. This restaurant has some of the best chefs in the town. Their service is excellent.**

- (a) This restaurant has some of the best chefs in the town; moreover, their service is excellent.
- (b) This restaurant has some of the best chefs in the town; however, their service is excellent.
- (c) Even if this restaurant has some of the best chefs in the town, their service is excellent.
- (d) This restaurant has some of the best chefs in the town because their service is excellent.

**Answer:** (a) This restaurant has some of the best chefs in the town; moreover, their service is excellent.

**(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to instructions given after each sentence.**

**1. Her attitude often annoys me.**

[Rewrite using : annoyance]

- (a) Her attitude often leads her to annoyance.
- (b) Annoyance is often caused to her.
- (c) Annoyance is the effect of her attitude.
- (d) Her attitude is often the cause of my annoyance.

**Answer:** (d) Her attitude is often the cause of my annoyance.

**2. This horse is better trained than yours.**

[Begin : Your.....]

- (a) Your horse is not as well trained as that.
- (b) Your horse is not as well trained as this.
- (c) Your is not as well trained as this horse.
- (d) Your horse is not well trained as that horse.

**Answer:** (b) Your horse is not as well trained as this.

**3. "Please teach me to cycle," she asked her brother.**

[Rewrite in indirect form.....]

- (a) She requested her brother to teach her to cycle.
- (b) She made a request to her brother to teach her cycle.

- (c) She requested her brother to please teach her to cycle.
- (d) She made a request to her brother to please teach her cycle.

**Answer:** (a) She requested her brother to teach her to cycle.

**4. It wasn't necessary to meet me at the airport yesterday.**

[Use : needn't]

- (a) It needn't to meet me at the airport yesterday.
- (b) You needn't have met me at the airport yesterday.
- (c) You needn't necessary to meet me at the airport yesterday.
- (d) It needn't necessarily meet me at the airport yesterday.

**Answer:** (b) You needn't have met me at the airport yesterday.

**5. The peasants regarded him as a thief and called him a villain.**

[End : .....the peasants]

- (a) He was regarded as a thief and called a villain by the peasants.
- (b) He is regarded as a thief and called a villain by the peasants.
- (c) He was being regarded as a thief and called a villain by the peasants.
- (d) He was being regarded as a thief and was being called a villain by the peasants.

**Answer:** (a) He was regarded as a thief and called a villain by the peasants.

**6. The children will sit out in the garden if the weather is cool.**

[Begin : The children won't.....]

- (a) The children won't sit out in the garden if the weather is cool.
- (b) The children won't be sitting out in the garden unless the weather was hot.
- (c) The children won't sit out in the garden if the weather is hot.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (c) The children won't sit out in the garden if the weather is hot.

**7. It was unkind of you to talk to her like that.**

[Use : not]

- (a) It was unkind of you to not talk to her like that.
- (b) You should not have not talked to her like that.
- (c) You should not have talked to her like that.
- (d) It was not unkind of you to talk to her like that

**Answer:** (c) You should not have talked to her like that.

**8. The thief ran so fast that the police could not catch him.**

[Rewrite using : too]

- (a) The thief ran too fast that he could not be caught.
- (b) The thief ran too fast that the police couldn't catch him.
- (c) The thief ran too fast to be caught by the police.
- (d) The thief ran too fast to have the police catch him.

**Answer:** (c) The thief ran too fast to be caught by the police.

**QUESTION 5.**

**(i) You are Akhilesh/Anamika of Class XII, Swami Vivekanand Public School. Being an Activity Coordinator, draft a notice to all the other Activity Council members to discuss and plan the activities for 25th December (Christmas Day) celebrations.**

**Answer:**

**SWAMI VIVEKANAND PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Notice**

Date: 10th December 2024

**Subject: Meeting for Christmas Day (25th December) Celebrations**

This is to inform all the members of the Activity Council that a meeting has been scheduled to discuss and plan the activities for the upcoming Christmas Day celebration on 25th December 2024. As part of the Activity Council, your valuable suggestions and ideas are crucial for organizing a fun-filled and memorable event for the entire school community.

**Details of the Meeting:**

Date: 12th December 2024

Time: 3:30 PM

Venue: Activity Room (Room No. 202)

The main objective of this meeting is to finalize the events and activities to be conducted on Christmas Day. We will be focusing on planning the following areas:

1. **Decoration:** Theme, materials, and space allocation for decorating the school.
2. **Cultural Performances:** Ideas for skits, dance, music, and other performances.
3. **Games and Activities:** Organizing interactive games and fun activities for students and teachers.

4. **Gift Exchange and Charity:** Planning any gift exchange or charity drives, if applicable.
5. **Refreshments and Food:** Discussing arrangements for any snacks or refreshments that might be served.
6. **Other Ideas:** Any additional activities members would like to include.

I encourage all members to come prepared with ideas and suggestions to ensure we make this Christmas celebration a success. If anyone has specific responsibilities or leads on any part of the event, please inform me in advance so we can coordinate effectively.

Let's all work together to make this Christmas a memorable one for everyone at Swami Vivekanand Public School.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

**Akhilesh / Anamika**

Activity Coordinator

Swami Vivekanand Public School

**(ii) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school requesting him/her to send a team of teachers to judge the interclass talent search.**

**Answer:**

**Subject: Request for Teachers to Judge Interclass Talent Search**

Dear [Principal's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to extend an invitation to your esteemed school to participate in our upcoming Interclass Talent Search event, which will be held at [Your School's Name] on [Date]. The event aims to provide students with a platform to showcase their creative abilities in various categories such as music, dance, drama, and public speaking.

As part of the event, we would be honored to have a team of teachers from your school serve as judges for the different competitions. We believe that your teachers' experience and expertise would be invaluable in evaluating the students' performances and providing constructive feedback to help them grow.

The event is expected to run from [Start Time] to [End Time], and we would greatly appreciate it if your team could arrive by [Arrival Time] to ensure a smooth start. We are planning to have a light refreshment break for the judges midway through the event.



We sincerely hope that your school will be able to contribute to this event by sending a team of teachers. Their involvement would not only make the event more enriching for our students but also foster stronger ties between our schools.

Please let us know if you are able to assist, and if there are any further details or logistics you require to finalize your participation. We are more than happy to accommodate any preferences or suggestions your team may have.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to your positive response.

Warm regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Designation]

[Your School's Name]

[Your Contact Information]

**ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION**  
**Sample Question Paper – 4**  
**English Paper – 1**

**Time: 2 Hours**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. Answer to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
4. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
5. Attempt all five questions
6. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].
7. You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

**QUESTION 1.**

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

**Read the following story carefully and answer the questions that follows.**

The Lord was the creator of good teachers. It was his sixth day of 'overtime' and he knew that this was a tremendous responsibility, for teachers would touch the lives of so many impressionable young children. An Angel appeared to him and said, "You are taking a long time to figure this one out." "Yes," said the Lord, "but have you read the specifications on this order?"

**TEACHER :** Teacher must stand above all students to be at their level. He must be able to do 180 additional things which are not related to their taught subject. Teacher must have to run on coffee. He must be able to communicate as per his vital knowledge to all students daily. Teacher must have more time for others than for himself, besides being **supportive**.

**"Six pairs of hands," said the Angel, "that's impossible"**

"Well," said the Lord," it is not the hands that are the problem. It is the three pairs of eyes that are presenting the most difficulty!"

The Angel looked incredulous, "Three pairs of eyes...on a standard model?"

The Lord nodded his head, "One pair is to see whether a student is doing or not what others have labelled them. The second pair is the pair of eyes which is at the back of the teacher's head to watch what should not be seen, but what must be known. The third pair is the eyes in the front which is only to look at the child and 'act out' in order to **reflect**, "I understand and I still believe in you", without so much as saying a word to the child."

"Lord," said the Angel, "this is a very large project and I think you should work on it tomorrow"

"I can't," said the Lord, "for I have come very close to creating something much like myself. I have one that comes to work when he/she is sick, teaches a class of children that do not want to learn, has a special place in his/her heart for children who are not his/her own, understands the struggles of those who have difficulty and never takes the students for granted."

The Angel looked closely at the model the Lord was creating.

"It is too soft-hearted," said the Angel.

"Yes," said the Lord, "but also tough, you cannot imagine what this teacher can endure or do, if necessary." "Can this teacher think?" asked the Angel.

"Not only think," said the Lord, "but reason and compromise." The Angel came closer to have a better look at the model and ran his finger over the teacher's cheek.

"Well, Lord," said the Angel, "Your job looks fine but there is a leak. I told you that you were putting too much into this model. You cannot imagine the stress that will be placed upon the teacher." The Lord moved in closer and lifted the drop of moisture from the teacher's cheek. It shone and glistened in the light. "It is not a leak," He said, "It is a tear."

"A tear? What is that?" asked the Angel, "What is a tear for?" The Lord replied with great thought, "For the joy and pride of watching what a child accomplishes even it's the smallest task to do. It is done for the loneliness of children who have a hard time to fit into the compassionate feelings of their parents. This has been done when a teacher had to leave the class and to say good bye to his students and get ready to welcome a new class."

"My," said the Angel, "The tear thing is a great idea...You are a genius!" The Lord looked sombre, "I didn't put it there."

**(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided.**

**1. supportive (line 10)**

- (a) to be encouraging
- (b) to be sympathetic
- (c) to be helpful
- (d) All of these

**Answer:** (d) All of these

**2. reflect (line 18)**

- (a) absorb
- (b) think deeply or carefully
- (c) let something be forgotten
- (d) not take into consideration

**Answer:** (b) think deeply or carefully

**(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'disagreement'?**

- (a) compromise
- (b) reason
- (c) compassionate
- (d) sombre

**Answer:** (a) compromise

**(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.**

**(a) What is the teacher's tear for?**

**Answer:** The teacher's tear is for the joy and pride of watching what a child accomplishes even if it's the smallest task to do. It is shed for the loneliness of children who have a hard time to fit into the compassionate feelings of their parents. This has been done when a teacher had to leave the class and to say good bye to his students and get ready to welcome a new class.

**(b) What is presenting the most difficulty to God? Why does a teacher need three pairs of eyes?**

**Answer:** Making the three pairs of eyes is presenting the most difficulty to God. A teacher needs three pairs of eyes because one pair is to see whether a student is doing or not what others have labelled them. The second pair is the pair of eyes which is at the back of the teacher's head to watch what should not be seen, but what must be known. The third pair is the eyes in the front which is only to look at



the child and 'act out' in order to reflect, 'I understand and I still believe in you' without saying a word to the child.

**(c) What are special qualities of a teacher according to God?**

**Answer:** According to God, a teacher's special qualities consist of being soft-hearted and caring as well as very tough when it comes to discipline the child. Also, the teacher is able to think, reason well and can be very understanding and compromising. He/she is a blend of soft-heartedness and toughness.

**(d) When did God create teachers? Why is this creation a tremendous responsibility?**

**Answer:** God created teachers as part of His divine plan to guide and shape future generations. Teachers are entrusted with the responsibility to impart knowledge, wisdom, and values that influence students' lives and communities. This role is tremendous because it involves not only academic instruction but also moral and emotional guidance, shaping individuals who will contribute to society. Teachers have the power to inspire, challenge, and uplift, making their work essential for the growth and development of humanity.

**(e) What are the specifications for a teacher?**

**Answer:** A teacher should possess strong communication skills, patience, and a passion for education. They need a deep understanding of the subject matter they teach, along with the ability to explain concepts clearly. Effective classroom management, adaptability, and empathy are essential. Teachers should be organized, skilled in using technology, and able to assess and track student progress. A degree in education or a relevant field, along with certification, is often required. Lifelong learning and professional development are also important for teachers.

**(iv) In not more than 50 words, describe how did God envision 'creating a good teacher'?**

**Answer:** God envisioned creating a good teacher as someone with wisdom, patience, and compassion. A good teacher inspires curiosity, fosters growth, and nurtures both the intellect and character of students. They lead by example, encourage perseverance, and instill values that guide individuals towards their fullest potential.

**QUESTION 2.**

**(i) You are Cultural Secretary of Queen Mary Convent, Lucknow. You want suitable students to represent your school in the Inter-School English Debate Competition to be held shortly.**

**Providing the necessary details and write a notice inviting participation.**

**Answer:**

## **NOTICE**

Inter-School English Debate Competition

Date: [Date of Competition] Time: [Time of Competition] Venue: [Venue of Competition]

Dear Students,

Queen Mary Convent is proud to announce its participation in the upcoming Inter-School English Debate Competition. This prestigious event offers a platform for talented debaters to showcase their skills, articulate their views, and engage in intellectual discourse.

We are seeking bright, articulate, and passionate students to represent our school in this competition. If you possess a flair for public speaking, a strong command of the English language, and a keen interest in current affairs, we encourage you to participate.

Eligibility:

- Students of [Classes] are eligible to participate.
- Participants must have excellent communication skills and a strong command of the English language.
- A keen interest in current affairs and the ability to think critically is essential.

Selection Process:

A selection process will be conducted to identify the most suitable candidates. This may involve:

- A written test to assess language skills and knowledge of current affairs.
- A preliminary round of debates on a specified topic.
- An interview to evaluate confidence, articulation, and overall suitability.

How to Participate:

Interested students may submit their names and contact information to [Your Name/Designation] at [Your Email/Contact Number] by [Deadline Date].

Benefits of Participating:

- Gain valuable experience in public speaking and debate.
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Enhance your confidence and self-esteem.
- Represent your school at a prestigious inter-school event.
- Network with other talented students from different schools.

We believe that this competition will be a rewarding experience for all participants. We look forward to receiving a strong response from our talented students.

Let's work together to bring glory to Queen Mary Convent!

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name] Cultural Secretary Queen Mary Convent, Lucknow

**(ii) Write an e-mail to a software firm having mail id: nat\_accounts@hotmail.com to enquire about purchase of an accounting software. Assume yourself to be Vinita Panchal with mail id: [vinita\\_128@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vinita_128@yahoo.co.in).**

**Answer:**

**Subject:** Inquiry About Accounting Software Purchase

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Vinita Panchal, and I am reaching out to inquire about the accounting software solutions offered by your company. As a professional managing accounting tasks for a growing business, I am exploring software options that can help streamline operations, ensure compliance, and enhance productivity.

Could you kindly provide me with detailed information regarding the following:

1. The features and functionalities of your accounting software.
2. Available plans and pricing details, including any discounts for bulk purchases or annual subscriptions.
3. Compatibility with commonly used operating systems and any specific hardware requirements.
4. Scalability options in case of business expansion.
5. Training or support services available for new users.

Additionally, I would appreciate if you could send over any brochures, demo links, or case studies showcasing how your software has benefited other businesses in similar industries.

As I am currently comparing multiple solutions, your prompt response will greatly assist me in making an informed decision. Feel free to reach me via this email or at my phone number, should you require further clarification regarding my requirements.

Looking forward to your reply.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Best regards,

Vinita Panchal

Email: vinita\_128@yahoo.co.in

### **QUESTION 3.**

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

**Select any one of the following.**

**(i) You are Girish/Seema, the Head Boy/Girl of ABC Public School, Jayanagar, Bengaluru. Your school has planned an overnight excursion of students and teachers to Mysuru and nearby areas. Write a letter to the Secretary, Ace Youth Hostel, Mysuru requesting him to send you a quotation for the costs of providing accommodation for 15 girls, 20 boys and two teachers for two days next month. Specify the dates when you want the accommodation and any other terms and conditions.**

### **Answer:**

ABC Public School, Jayanagar, Bengaluru

[School Address]

[Date]

The Secretary Ace Youth Hostel Mysuru

Subject: Request for Quotation for Accommodation

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of ABC Public School, Jayanagar, Bengaluru. Our school has planned an overnight excursion to Mysuru and nearby areas for our students and teachers next month.



We are interested in booking accommodation at your esteemed youth hostel for a period of two days, from [Start Date] to [End Date]. We require accommodation for the following:

- 15 Girls
- 20 Boys
- 2 Teachers

We would be grateful if you could provide us with a detailed quotation for the accommodation, including the following:

- Room Allocation: Please specify the type of rooms available and the number of beds per room.
- Boarding: Please provide details of the meals included in the package, such as breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Other Facilities: Please inform us about the other facilities available at the hostel, such as recreational areas, common rooms, and Wi-Fi access.
- Additional Charges: Please specify any additional charges that may apply, such as laundry services, medical facilities, or transportation.

We would also like to know about any specific terms and conditions that we need to be aware of, such as cancellation policies, security deposits, and check-in/check-out times.

We are particularly interested in a safe and secure environment for our students, and we would appreciate it if you could assure us of the necessary security measures in place at the hostel.

We look forward to receiving your prompt response and quotation. Please feel free to contact us if you require any further information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] Head Boy/Girl ABC Public School, Jayanagar, Bengaluru [Your Contact Number] [School Email]

**(ii) Write a letter to your friend, Rohan, consoling him on the death of his mother. Assume yourself to be Gaurav.**

**Answer:**

Dear Rohan,

I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear about the passing of your mother. I cannot even begin to imagine the pain and heartbreak you must be going through right now. Please accept my heartfelt condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this incredibly difficult time.

Losing a parent is an indescribable loss, and I know that no words can ever truly ease the sorrow you are feeling. Your mother was a kind and loving person, and I have such fond memories of her whenever I visited your home. She always welcomed me with a warm smile, and I could see the immense love and care she had for you. I know how much she meant to you, and I can only imagine the emptiness you must be feeling in her absence.

During times like this, it's important to remember the beautiful moments you shared with her. Cherish the memories of the love, wisdom, and guidance she provided. I'm sure that her spirit will continue to live on in the lessons she taught you and the strength she instilled in you.

Please know that you are not alone in this. I am here for you, whether you need someone to talk to or just someone to sit with you in silence. Lean on your loved ones and take all the time you need to grieve. Your mother's love will always be a part of you, and in time, the pain will ease, though her memory will never fade.

Rohan, I am sending you all my love and strength. Please take care of yourself and your family, and don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything. Remember that I'm just a call away.

With deepest sympathy,

Gaurav

#### **QUESTION 4.**

**Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following.**

**(i) Recall an important event of social importance in your city. Describe the event as it occurred and its impact on other members of the society**

**Answer:** One significant event of social importance in my city occurred during the "Green City Initiative," a large-scale environmental project aimed at transforming urban spaces into greener, more sustainable areas. The initiative was launched last year by the city's municipal government in collaboration with local environmental groups. The goal was to plant over 50,000 trees and establish more green spaces, such as parks and community gardens, across the city.

The event began with a citywide volunteer campaign where citizens, schools, businesses, and government employees participated in tree planting across various neighborhoods. The initiative culminated in a citywide event where hundreds of volunteers gathered in the central park for a massive planting session. City officials, environmental activists, and local leaders also attended, delivering speeches about the importance of preserving the environment and reducing the urban carbon footprint.

The event had a profound impact on the local community. First, it brought people from diverse backgrounds together for a common cause, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility for the environment. Citizens, especially younger generations, took pride in contributing to the city's environmental health, with many expressing a renewed sense of environmental awareness. Local schools became actively involved by organizing educational programs for students about climate change and sustainability.

Additionally, the initiative led to the creation of more green spaces in urban areas, which had long been lacking in many parts of the city. This not only improved the aesthetic appeal of the city but also had positive effects on residents' mental and physical well-being. Studies show that access to green spaces reduces stress and promotes outdoor activity, improving the overall quality of life.

Moreover, the Green City Initiative served as a model for other cities, encouraging neighboring regions to adopt similar programs. The initiative sparked greater community involvement in local environmental efforts and promoted long-term sustainability practices that continue to shape the city's policies. Through this project, the city not only became greener but also built a stronger sense of community, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

**(ii) 'Coaching classes are important for better learning.' Express your views for or against this statement.**

**Answer:** In today's competitive world, the importance of education cannot be overstated, and the question of whether coaching classes contribute to better learning has sparked much debate. While some argue that coaching classes provide essential academic support, others believe that they are not always necessary for educational success. I believe that coaching classes can significantly enhance learning, but their effectiveness depends on several factors.

### **For Coaching Classes**

Coaching classes offer a structured learning environment that many students need. For students struggling with school subjects, coaching provides personalized



attention that they might not receive in a crowded classroom. Tutors can identify individual weaknesses, tailor lessons to meet specific needs, and ensure that no student falls behind. This focused approach helps students grasp difficult concepts, boost their understanding, and build confidence in their abilities.

Moreover, coaching classes often provide additional resources and practice materials that are not available in regular school curriculums. Practice tests, mock exams, and extra assignments can help students prepare for competitive exams, fostering better exam performance. This aspect of coaching is especially vital for students aiming for entrance exams, where every mark counts.

Another advantage is the motivation that coaching classes instill. In a classroom with peers who share similar academic goals, students are often more motivated to study and perform well. Tutors also play a significant role in encouraging students to maintain discipline and study regularly, which can lead to a consistent and focused learning process.

### **Against Coaching Classes**

However, coaching classes are not a panacea for all learning problems. Some students may rely too heavily on coaching, neglecting self-study or independent learning. Over-dependence on coaching classes can stifle critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential for academic and personal growth. Additionally, the extra financial burden of coaching can be a barrier for some families, making it an unequal option for many.

Furthermore, coaching classes often focus on exam-oriented learning, which may limit students' understanding of subjects in their broader context. This narrow approach might hinder the development of creativity and a deeper love for learning.

**(iii) Your school participated in 'Say No to Crackers' campaign organised by the municipality in your town one week before Diwali. Write a composition on the activities undertaken during this campaign.**

### **Answer: Say No to Crackers Campaign: A Step Towards a Greener Diwali**

Last week, our school actively participated in the 'Say No to Crackers' campaign organized by the municipality in our town. The initiative aimed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of crackers on the environment and our health, especially during the festive season of Diwali. The campaign involved various activities that encouraged people to celebrate a cleaner, greener Diwali.

The campaign kicked off with an awareness rally in the local community. Our school's students, teachers, and members of the municipality gathered early in the



morning. Holding colorful placards with messages like “Celebrate a Green Diwali,” “Say No to Crackers,” and “Protect Our Environment,” we marched through the streets, engaging with residents and encouraging them to avoid bursting crackers. The enthusiasm in the air was contagious, and many passersby joined in, voicing their support for the cause.

Next, we organized a series of workshops and interactive sessions in our school. Experts from environmental organizations were invited to speak to us about the negative impacts of firecrackers. They explained how the chemicals released during the bursting of crackers contribute to air and noise pollution, which not only harms the environment but also causes respiratory problems, particularly in children and the elderly. The sessions also highlighted how animals, especially pets, get stressed due to the loud noises, and how the toxic smoke affects their health too.

Additionally, we set up booths displaying posters, brochures, and videos that educated people about safer and eco-friendly alternatives to traditional fireworks. The idea of celebrating Diwali with diyas, rangolis, and sweets was promoted as an enjoyable and responsible way to enjoy the festivities without harming nature.

To add a fun element to the campaign, our school organized a “Green Diwali Contest,” where students decorated their homes with eco-friendly materials and created innovative ideas for celebrating Diwali without crackers. The contest was a huge success, with many participants showcasing their creative solutions.

The ‘Say No to Crackers’ campaign was a wonderful experience, and it instilled in all of us the importance of celebrating Diwali in an environmentally responsible manner. It reminded us that true joy comes not from noise and pollution, but from the warmth of family, community, and nature.

**(iv) Write a short story beginning with the line: “It was a normal evening at the park. Children were playing on the rides, women were sitting and gossiping, two elderly gentlemen were sitting on the corner bench and sharing jokes. Everything was the same as any other evening, except one thing.....”**

**Answer:** It was a normal evening at the park. Children were playing on the rides, women were sitting and gossiping, two elderly gentlemen were sitting on the corner bench and sharing jokes. Everything was the same as any other evening, except one thing... the shadows.

At first, no one noticed. The sun had dipped below the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky. But as the evening wore on, something was off. The shadows seemed to stretch longer than they should, creeping unnaturally across the

ground. The children, lost in their games, didn't notice, nor did the gossiping women. Only the two elderly gentlemen on the bench exchanged uneasy glances.

"Did you see that?" one of them, Mr. Grey, asked his friend, Mr. Finch.

"What? The shadows? I've been noticing them, too," replied Mr. Finch, his voice tinged with concern.

The shadows were no longer simple, dark imprints of trees and benches. They had begun to twist and shift, like living things, stretching into shapes that seemed to move of their own accord. At first, they simply swirled around the edges of the park, but now they were creeping closer to the people, reaching out as if they had a purpose.

The children giggled as the swings moved on their own, pushed by an invisible force. One little girl stopped and looked up, her wide eyes locking onto the shadows. She pointed.

"Look!" she said. Her voice was small, but the others in the park suddenly turned, following her gaze. The shadows now gathered near the entrance to the park, darkening the air in a way that felt unnatural.

For a moment, the park fell silent. Then, a low hum, like the sound of a distant storm, filled the air. The shadows began to sway, pulling themselves together, as though forming something far larger than the park itself. The ground trembled, and people took a step back, but no one could look away.

The shadows were alive. And they were coming for them.

**(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it but there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.**



**Answer:** As the picture suggests, a small girl is ready to go to school. Her mother is busy in dressing her up. This is a normal routine at so many households where school going children are sent to school and major help to prepare them comes from children's mother. Elementary education is a Fundamental Right for India's children according to the Right to Education Act. Parents should ensure that their daughters get education as they deserve it. The family should not involve them so much in domestic duties that they neglect their schooling. It is famously said- "If you educate a man, you educate an individual; but if you educate a woman, you educate the entire nation."

If the number of well-educated women in our country equals the number of men, these women will become capable of bringing about fundamental socio-economic changes in the Indian society. Their education will lead to their empowerment which will ultimately make the country prosperous. When girls in Indian society are educated, our society's sustainability and growth is ensured. However, if they remain uneducated and economically dependent on men, they will be helpless. Their economic independence can only come once they get educated and thus become suitable for employment.

Poverty is one of the major problems still existing in India and women education is a prerequisite to alleviate poverty. This would demand a big contribution from the educated women as they will have to motivate the uneducated girls and women to complete their education. An educated and progressive mother, wife, sister or daughter will help to educate the future generation of India. It will lead to a more enlightened and aware population which will fulfill the potential of India's demographic dividend and lead to prosperity for the nation.

#### **QUESTION 5.**

**(i) In the following passage, fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.**

**Example :** The car ..... (0) (slow) down at the curve.

**Answer :** (0) slowed

Gandhiji ..... (1) (be) a prolific writer who ..... (2) (spend) several hours in a day writing. He ..... (3) (write) for the journals that he then ..... (4) (edit). He ..... (5) (use) the print medium for ..... (6) (spread) his message. His personal letters ..... (7) (be) even more powerful. Thus, he ..... (8) (apply) a powerful medium to reinforce his views on life.

**Answer:**

- (1) was
- (2) spent
- (3) wrote
- (4) edited
- (5) used
- (6) spreading
- (7) were
- (8) applied

**(ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.**

- (a) I received this message \_\_\_\_ 7 o'clock \_\_\_\_ the morning.
- (b) \_\_\_\_ Anil and Vinod, there were three other boys present.
- (c) I commenced work \_\_\_\_ the month of May.
- (d) I saw Jagdish felling a big tree \_\_\_\_ an axe.
- (e) We walked \_\_\_\_ the street \_\_\_\_ the end.
- (f) Ravi drove his car 180 ms \_\_\_\_ two hours \_\_\_\_ stopping anywhere.
- (g) The child has been missing \_\_\_\_ his home \_\_\_\_ yesterday.
- (h) An old feud existed \_\_\_\_ the two families.

**Answer:**

- (a) at, in
- (b) Besides
- (c) from
- (d) with
- (e) down, to
- (f) within, without
- (g) from, since
- (h) between

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without using and, but or so.**

**Choose the correct option.**

**1. Everyone was drenched thoroughly. The rain was coming down in torrents.**

- (a) Everyone was drenched thoroughly yet the rain was coming down in torrents.
- (b) The rain was coming down in torrents since everyone was drenched thoroughly.
- (c) The rain was coming down in torrents; however, everyone was drenched thoroughly.
- (d) Everyone was drenched thoroughly because the rain was coming down in torrents.



**Answer:** (d) Everyone was drenched thoroughly because the rain was coming down in torrents.

**2. Raneer warned her daughter, Poonam, against talking to unknown persons. She told Poonam not to accept gifts from strangers.**

(a) Raneer warned her daughter, Poonam, either to talk to strangers or to accept gifts from them.

(b) Raneer warned her daughter, Poonam, neither to talk to strangers nor to accept gifts from them.

(c) Raneer warned her daughter, Poonam, not only to not talk to strangers but also to accept gifts from them.

(d) Raneer warned her daughter, Poonam, to not talk to strangers yet to accept gifts from them.

**Answer:** (b) Raneer warned her daughter, Poonam, neither to talk to strangers nor to accept gifts from them.

**3. Mr. Sharma's heart attack was severe. He was bedridden for six months.**

(a) Though Mr. Sharma was bedridden for six months, his heart attack was severe.

(b) Though Mr. Sharma's heart attack was severe, he was bedridden for six months.

(c) Mr. Sharma was bedridden for six months after a severe heart attack.

(d) Mr. Sharma's heart attack was severe after he was bedridden.

**Answer:** (c) Mr. Sharma was bedridden for six months after a severe heart attack.

**4. Jagdish went out to see the damage due to the earthquake. Sarita stayed back to look after the baby.**

(a) While Jagdish went out to see the damage due to the earthquake, Sarita stayed back to look after the baby.

(b) Jagdish went out to see the damage due to the earthquake because Sarita stayed back to look after the baby.

(c) Sarita stayed back to look after the baby; nonetheless, Jagdish went out to see the damage due to the earthquake.

(d) Jagdish went out to see the damage due to earthquake; moreover, Sarita stayed back to look after the baby

**Answer:** (a) While Jagdish went out to see the damage due to the earthquake, Sarita stayed back to look after the baby.

**(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to instructions given after each sentence.**

**1. I saw the film although I strongly dislike thrillers.**

[Use : spite]

- (a) I saw the film despite of my strong dislike of thrillers.
- (b) I saw the film despite my strong liking of thrillers.
- (c) I saw the film in spite my strong liking of thrillers.
- (d) I saw the film in spite of my strong dislike of thrillers.

**Answer:** (d) I saw the film in spite of my strong dislike of thrillers.

**2. It's not possible to play tennis because of the rain.**

[Use : makes]

- (a) The rain makes tennis impossible.
- (b) The tennis game makes the rain impossible.
- (c) The playing of tennis makes it impossible to rain.
- (d) The rain makes it impossible to play tennis.

**Answer:** (d) The rain makes it impossible to play tennis.

**3. She said, "I don't want to come with you."**

[Begin with : She said that... ]

- (a) She said that she doesn't want to come with me.
- (b) She said that she didn't want to come with me.
- (c) She said that she didn't want to come with you.
- (d) She said that she doesn't want to come with you

**Answer:** (b) She said that she didn't want to come with me.

**4. This was the best drama I had ever enjoyed.**

[Begin with : Never]

- (a) This was the best drama I had never not enjoyed.
- (b) This was the best drama I had never enjoyed.
- (c) Never had I enjoyed a better drama than this.
- (d) Never did I enjoyed a better drama than this.

**Answer:** (c) Never had I enjoyed a better drama than this.

**5. The child disappeared as soon as the bus stopped.**

[Begin : Hardly....]

- (a) Hardly had the bus stopped that the child disappeared.
- (b) Hardly had the bus stopped than the child disappeared.

- (c) Hardly did the bus stop then the child disappeared.
- (d) Hardly had the bus stopped when the child disappeared.

**Answer:** (d) Hardly had the bus stopped when the child disappeared.

**6. Come what may, we will have the match tomorrow**

[Begin with : Whatever]

- (a) Whatever may happen, we will have the match tomorrow
- (b) Whatever will happen, we will have the match tomorrow.
- (c) Whatever could happen, we will have the match tomorrow
- (d) Whatever does happen, we will have the match tomorrow.

**Answer:** (a) Whatever may happen, we will have the match tomorrow

**7. I've never tasted such good food before.**

[Rewrite using : ever]

- (a) It's the best food I've ever tasted.
- (b) Even it's the best food I've tasted.
- (c) Never have I ever not tasted the best food.
- (d) None of these

**Answer:** (a) It's the best food I've ever tasted.

**8. Do your parents allow you to watch TV late at night?**

[Rewrite using : let]

- (a) Do your parents let you watch TV late at night?
- (b) Do you let your parents watch TV late at night?
- (c) Do your parents let TV watch late at night?
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (a) Do your parents let you watch TV late at night?

**ICSE 2025 EXAMINATION**  
**Sample Question Paper – 5**  
**English Paper – 1**

**Time: 2 Hours**

**Max. Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. Answer to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
4. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
5. Attempt all five questions
6. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].
7. You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

**QUESTION 1.**

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

**Select any one of the following.**

**(i) A friend who lives in another country has invited you to come and stay with him/her during your next holiday. You are too busy to accept the invitation.**

**Write a reply to your friend. In your letter,**

1. Thank him/her for the invitation
2. Explain why you cannot come
3. Describe to him/her what events have occurred in your family

**Answer: 1. Thank him/her for the invitation**

Dear [Friend's Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. First of all, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your kind invitation to visit you during my next holiday. It means so much to me that you would offer such a warm welcome, and I am genuinely touched by your thoughtfulness.



I have been dreaming of visiting [the country] for quite some time now, and the idea of spending time with you there sounds absolutely wonderful. I can already picture us exploring the sights together, enjoying the local culture, and catching up on everything we've missed. Your invitation is truly a generous one, and I can't thank you enough for thinking of me.

Unfortunately, due to my busy schedule at work and other commitments, I regret to inform you that I won't be able to accept your invitation this time. There are a number of responsibilities I need to attend to, and it would be difficult to take the time off. I'm really disappointed because I was looking forward to seeing you and experiencing your beautiful country.

I hope you understand, and I promise that I'll try to plan for a visit as soon as I can make time for it. In the meantime, I would love to stay in touch and hear all about what you've been up to. I truly hope that we can find a way to meet up soon, even if it's not during my upcoming holiday.

Thank you again for your incredible generosity, and I hope we'll have the chance to spend time together in the near future.

Warmest regards,  
[Your Name]

**(ii) You recently stayed in a 5-star hotel in Jaipur. The weather was very hot and the cooling system in the room was inadequate. Write a letter to the manager of the hotel.**

1. Give details of what went wrong
2. Explain what you had to do to overcome the problem at the time
3. Say what action you would like the manager to take

**Answer:**

[Your Name]  
[Your Address]  
[City, Postal Code]  
[Date]

The Manager,  
[Hotel Name]  
[Hotel Address]  
Jaipur, [Postal Code]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently had the opportunity to stay at your esteemed hotel during my visit to Jaipur. I chose your hotel because of its reputation for luxury and excellent service. However, I regret to inform you that my experience was marred by an issue with the cooling system in the room.

During my stay, I found the weather in Jaipur to be excessively hot, but the air conditioning in my room was inadequate. Despite setting the temperature at a comfortable level, the room remained uncomfortably warm, which made it difficult to rest and enjoy my stay. I tried adjusting the settings multiple times, but the system seemed to be malfunctioning or insufficient to cope with the external temperature.

To overcome the problem, I had no choice but to keep the windows open at night, which allowed some airflow but did not provide enough cooling. This made my room noisy, and I was unable to sleep properly due to the constant street sounds and heat.

Given the situation, I kindly request that you take immediate action to ensure that the air conditioning units in the hotel rooms are properly maintained and capable of handling extreme weather conditions. It would be greatly appreciated if you could offer a partial refund or a discount for the inconvenience I experienced.

I trust that you will take my concerns seriously and work towards providing a better experience for future guests.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
[Your Name]

## **QUESTION 2.**

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

**Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following.**

**(i) Write an original story starting with the words 'It was a dark windy night.....'**

### **Answer:**

It was a dark, windy night, the kind where the trees creaked like ancient voices, groaning under the weight of the storm. The moon, barely visible through the heavy clouds, cast a dim, eerie glow on the world below. In the small village of Brookhaven, the streets were deserted, the homes locked tight, and the only sound was the howl of the wind, rushing through the narrow alleys.

Lena, wrapped in a thick coat, walked briskly through the empty streets, her footsteps muffled by the thick layer of fallen leaves. Her breath formed small clouds

in the air as she quickened her pace, the chill in her bones urging her to hurry. She had to reach the old manor on the hill before the storm worsened.

The manor had stood abandoned for decades, its once grand structure now crumbling and forgotten. But tonight, something called Lena there. A strange, restless pull she couldn't ignore.

As she approached the manor, the wind picked up, sending a shiver down her spine. The large iron gates creaked open as if they had been waiting for her. The path to the front door was overgrown, but Lena pressed on, her heart pounding in her chest.

The door to the manor groaned as she pushed it open, the smell of mildew and dust filling her nose. She stepped inside, the air heavy with silence. The only sound was the faint ticking of an old clock in the corner of the room.

Suddenly, a voice broke the stillness—a whisper that seemed to come from everywhere and nowhere at once.

"Lena..."

She froze, her breath caught in her throat. The voice was familiar, though she couldn't place it. It beckoned her deeper into the manor, pulling her toward the darkness. She couldn't explain why, but she followed.

As she descended into the cold, shadowy basement, the door slammed shut behind her. And then, she saw it—her own reflection in an old, cracked mirror, but it wasn't her face staring back. It was someone else's.

**(ii) 'Academic excellence is the only requirement for a successful career.'  
Express your views for or against this statement.**

**Answer: Against the Statement:**

While academic excellence is often considered a significant factor in achieving career success, it is far from the only requirement. A successful career depends on a combination of various skills, attributes, and experiences that go beyond academic achievement.

Firstly, interpersonal skills, such as communication, teamwork, and emotional intelligence, are critical for professional growth. These "soft skills" allow individuals to effectively collaborate, resolve conflicts, and build relationships with colleagues and clients. In many careers, success hinges on the ability to connect with others, inspire trust, and demonstrate leadership, which cannot be solely gained through academic performance.

Moreover, work experience plays a vital role in shaping one's career. Practical knowledge acquired through internships, volunteer work, or part-time jobs equips individuals with real-world problem-solving abilities and a deeper understanding of the workplace. Experience allows one to develop industry-specific skills that academic learning may not provide. For example, a person might excel in theoretical knowledge but struggle to apply it in practical situations without prior work experience.

Adaptability and a willingness to learn are also essential. The modern workplace is constantly evolving, and individuals who can adapt to new technologies, methodologies, and market demands are often more successful than those who rely purely on academic qualifications. Continuous professional development, whether through on-the-job learning, workshops, or self-study, is critical for maintaining and enhancing one's career trajectory.

Additionally, personal qualities like resilience, creativity, and a strong work ethic often play a more significant role than academic excellence. People who demonstrate perseverance in the face of challenges, think outside the box, and remain committed to their goals often find success, even without top academic credentials.

**(iii) You have to go to your home town due to demise of your grandfather. Narrate your experience of travelling over a long distance (overnight) in an unreserved second class compartment.**

**Answer:** The news of my grandfather's demise came as a shock, and I had to rush back to my hometown immediately. Without much thought, I booked a train ticket in the unreserved second-class compartment. The journey, spanning an entire night, was long and exhausting, yet it gave me a lot of time to reflect on life, family, and memories.

I boarded the train at around 9:00 PM. The second-class compartment was overcrowded, with people pushing and shoving to find a spot. I managed to find a small space near the door where I stood, trying to settle into the rhythm of the train. The air was thick with the smell of sweat, food, and the faint odor of tobacco. Some passengers were already dozing off, while others were talking loudly, seemingly unaffected by the discomfort of the journey. A group of children, excited by the motion of the train, were laughing and playing in the aisle.

The rhythmic clatter of the train's wheels against the tracks, combined with the occasional announcements over the loudspeaker, kept me awake. As the night deepened, the compartment grew quieter, with more people falling asleep, some



leaning against the windows, others lying on the floor. The constant motion of the train made it hard to sleep, but I tried to rest my eyes, my thoughts constantly drifting back to my grandfather.

Around midnight, the train made a brief halt at a small station. The noise of vendors selling tea and snacks broke the stillness, and the brief stop provided a small moment of relief for the passengers. I got down for a few minutes, stretching my legs and taking in the cool night air. As we resumed our journey, I saw the dim lights of the passing towns, each blur of motion a reminder of how far I was from home.

By morning, the fatigue had set in, but the sight of the rising sun and the familiar landscape as we approached my hometown filled me with a sense of urgency and sorrow. The long, uncomfortable journey had finally ended, but it was just the beginning of a new chapter, one marked by loss and the journey of saying goodbye.

**(iv) You recently read a novel which was quite engrossing due to different characters. Describe your favourite (character and give reason why you like this character.**

**Answer:**

In the novel I recently read, one character stood out to me due to their complexity and the journey they underwent throughout the story. My favorite character is *Elias*, a conflicted yet deeply human figure who embodies both strength and vulnerability in equal measure.

Elias begins the story as a soldier in a ruthless empire, trapped in a life he never chose but feels compelled to follow. He is bound by duty and fear, constantly questioning the morality of the empire he serves. This inner conflict made him a fascinating character to follow, as I could sense his struggle with the choices he was forced to make. What drew me to Elias was his inherent kindness that remained intact despite the cruelty surrounding him. His willingness to help others, even when it jeopardized his own safety, demonstrated a selflessness that is rare in the harsh world he inhabits.

As the story progresses, Elias's development as a character is shaped by his relationships with those around him. His loyalty to his friends and his growing sense of justice are powerful motivators, and he begins to fight for the freedom and safety of others, even if it means going against the very empire he was sworn to protect. His transformation from a soldier who blindly follows orders to a man who questions everything and seeks change is what makes him such a compelling figure.

What I admired most about Elias was his ability to evolve without losing the core of who he was. Despite all the suffering and challenges he faced, he never let bitterness take root. Instead, he embraced his flaws and found the courage to act in the face of fear, making him a symbol of hope and resilience.

In a world filled with morally gray characters, Elias's journey from confusion to clarity was not only inspiring but also profoundly human. His complexity, inner turmoil, and capacity for growth are why I found him to be the most compelling character in the novel.

**(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it but there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.**



**Answer: Floods in our Village**

I live in a small village on the left bank of the Ghaghra River in Bahraich district. Every year, during the rainy season, our village is surrounded by the river water. So, we have built our houses on rocky ground much above the level of the surrounding areas. Last year, due to heavy rains, we were forced to evacuate our village by using boats as there were big sheets of water all around. It was a horrible sight. We went to our relatives' farm in the interior about 10 km away, where we were safe. On the way, we saw other villages submerged in water with people sitting on their rooftops waiting to be rescued. Some people were carrying their luggage in the boats sent by the government for moving the residents to safer places. The Indian Army had been

called out to help in the movement of people. The soldiers helped the elderly, the infirm and children to get into the boats safely.

The government officers had made an arrangement for a big relief camp on high ground. Most of the residents had been temporarily shifted there. A community kitchen was being run for the camp residents. Further, clean drinking water was available to save the camp residents from the possible attack of water-borne diseases. They were also given medical aid if required. The floods caused great loss to the people in the affected areas. The standing crops were completely washed away. In our village, nearly all the mud houses were washed away by the swift current of water. Hundreds of cattle were drowned.

When the water receded after about ten days, we returned to our village to find that some walls of our home were damaged by the swirling water. These walls required extensive repair. We applied for and received some funds from the government for repairing the walls, which was a great relief. We were also able to get a loan from the government for buying seeds and chemical fertilisers for the next crop. The government has promised us that this year an embankment will be constructed along the river banks near our village to prevent floods in future.

### QUESTION 3.

**(i) Your school is organising a donation drive for the underprivileged children of the slum areas near your school. As the Head Girl of your school, write a notice for your school notice board informing students about the event and inviting them to donate whatever they can to make the donation drive a success.**

**Answer:**

#### NOTICE

#### **Donation Drive for Underprivileged Children**

Date: 11th December 2024

Dear Students,

As part of our school's commitment to social responsibility and community service, we are organizing a **Donation Drive** to support the underprivileged children living in the slum areas near our school. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need and extend a helping hand to children who do not have access to basic necessities.

**Event Details:**



- **Purpose:** To collect donations of clothing, books, stationery, toys, and other essential items for children in the slum areas.
- **Collection Dates:** From 15th December to 20th December 2024
- **Collection Boxes:** Will be placed in the school corridors, near the main entrance, and in the school library.

We encourage all students to participate in this noble cause by donating any items they can spare. It could be something as simple as gently used clothes, storybooks, stationery, or toys. Every little contribution can make a big difference in the lives of these children, providing them with not just material support, but also a sense of hope and belonging.

Let us come together to make this event a grand success and show our solidarity with those less fortunate. We believe that even small acts of kindness can create ripples of change in society.

For any questions or further details, please feel free to contact the **Head Girl** or the **Student Council members**.

Let's unite to spread joy and make this festive season brighter for these children.

**Together, we can make a difference!**

Thank you for your support!

**Head Girl**

[Your Name]

[School Name]

**(ii) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a nearby school requesting him to allow the students of his school to participate in the event.**

**Answer:**

**Subject:** Request for Participation in [Event Name]

Dear [Principal's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to extend an invitation to the students of [School Name] to participate in an upcoming event, [Event Name], organized by [Your School/Organization Name]. This event will take place on [Event Date] at [Event Location], and we would be thrilled to have students from your school join us for this exciting opportunity.



The event will feature a range of activities, including [briefly describe key activities or themes of the event, e.g., competitions, workshops, performances, etc.]. It promises to be a fantastic experience for students, offering them a chance to showcase their skills, interact with peers from different schools, and engage in educational and recreational activities. The event is designed to encourage creativity, teamwork, and personal growth.

We believe that the participation of your students would add great value to the event and provide them with a unique platform for learning and development. We are confident that they will benefit from the experience, and it will be a wonderful opportunity for them to meet new people, learn new things, and grow as individuals.

Please let us know if you would be open to allowing your students to participate. We would be happy to provide any additional details or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to your positive response and hope to see your students at the event.

Warm regards,  
[Your Full Name]  
[Your Position]  
[Your School/Organization Name]  
[Your Contact Information]

#### **QUESTION 4.**

**(i) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with correct form of the words given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.**

**Example :** I ..... (0) (met) him in the mall the day before yesterday.

**Answer :** had met

Sago pudding is a popular Chinese dessert often served in many Chinese restaurants. The dessert is made of pearl sago which is almost transparent and it ..... (1) (swell) during cooking.

Sago can ..... (2) (obtain) from the trunks of the sago palm which are found in swamps. The palm reaches a height of about ninety metres when fully ..... (3) (grow). The palms ..... (4) (cut down) just before they flower. Part of the trunk ..... (5) (pound) into pulp before it ..... (6) (turn) into powder by machine.

The powder is later washed and ..... (7) (dry). It is now called sago flour. This flour is then kneaded into dough and ..... (8) (pass) through another machine to form the pearl-like grains which we see in sago pudding.

**Answer:**

- (1) swells
- (2) be obtained
- (3) grown
- (4) are cut down
- (5) is pounded
- (6) turns
- (7) dried
- (8) passed

**(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word.**

- (a) I liked the book so much that I finished it \_\_\_\_ a day.
- (b) There was a security alert \_\_\_\_ the airport.
- (c) \_\_\_\_ a pause in the conversation, I excused myself and left for home.
- (d) I've taken a resolution not to drink \_\_\_\_ the end of year.
- (e) I'll return your money \_\_\_\_ the end of the year.
- (f) Because I had to reach home before dinner, I could stay with my friends \_\_\_\_ just two hours.
- (g) Most people left the party \_\_\_\_ 2 AM.
- (h) The party went on \_\_\_\_ 4 AM.

**Answer:**

- (a) in
- (b) at
- (c) during
- (d) until
- (e) by
- (f) for
- (g) by
- (h) until

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence **without using** and, **but** or **so**.

**1. The beggar was crossing the road. The accident took place then.**

- (a) The accident took place and the beggar was crossing the road.
- (b) The beggar was crossing the road yet the accident took place.

- (c) Although the accident took place, the beggar was crossing the road.
- (d) The accident took place while the beggar was crossing the road.

**Answer:** (d) The accident took place while the beggar was crossing the road.

**2. She studied German for three years. Then she moved to Berlin.**

- (a) After she had studied German for three years, she moved to Berlin.
- (b) After she moved to Berlin, she studied German for three years.
- (c) After having studied German for three years, she moved to Berlin.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

**Answer:** (d) Both (a) and (c)

**3. The lawyer defended his client very well. He lost the case.**

- (a) Though the lawyer defended his client very well, yet he lost the case.
- (b) Although the lawyer defended his client very well but he lost the case.
- (c) Though the lawyer defended his client very well, he lost the case.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (c) Though the lawyer defended his client very well, he lost the case.

**4. The bus left at six o' clock. We arrived at the bus stop at five past six.**

- (a) The bus had left after we arrived at the bus stop.
- (b) The bus had come after we arrived at the bus stop.
- (c) The bus had left before we arrived at the bus stop.
- (d) The bus had come before we arrived at the bus stop.

**Answer:** (c) The bus had left before we arrived at the bus stop.

**(iv) Choose the correct option to rewrite the following according to instructions given after each sentence.**

**1. To the best of my knowledge, he is a vegetarian.**

[Begin with : As far... ]

- (a) As far my knowledge, he is a vegetarian.
- (b) As far my knowledge, he is not a vegetarian.
- (c) As far as I know, he is not a vegetarian.
- (d) As far as I know, he is a vegetarian.

**Answer:** (d) As far as I know, he is a vegetarian.

**2. As soon as the bus arrived, all rushed to their seats.**

[Rewrite using : hardly]

- (a) Hardly the bus arrived, when all rushed to their seats.
- (b) Hardly had the bus arrived, when all rushed to their seats.
- (c) Hardly had the bus arrived, than all rushed to their seats.
- (d) Hardly did the bus arrived, than all rushed to their seats.

**Answer:** (b) Hardly had the bus arrived, when all rushed to their seats.

**3. He must fill in the form.**

[Begin with : The form...]

- (a) The form should be filled by him.
- (b) The form could be filled in by him.
- (c) The form will be filled by him.
- (d) The form must be filled in by him.

**Answer:** (d) The form must be filled in by him.

**4. The doctor said to the patient, 'Quit Smoking.'**

[Report the given sentence]

- (a) The doctor told the patient to quit smoking.
- (b) The doctor requested the patient to quit smoking.
- (c) The doctor advised the patient to quit smoking.
- (d) The doctor said to the patient to quit smoking.

**Answer:** (c) The doctor advised the patient to quit smoking.

**5. Manisha decided to visit her friend and tell her the sad news.**

[Use : drop]

- (a) Manisha decided to drop at on her friend and tell her the sad news.
- (b) Manisha decided to drop on her friend and tell her the sad news.
- (c) Manisha decided to drop in on her friend and tell her the sad news.
- (d) Manisha decided for dropping at on her friend and tell her the sad news.

**Answer:** (c) Manisha decided to drop in on her friend and tell her the sad news.

**6. The only person I didn't see was Geeta.**

[Use : except]

- (a) I saw no one except Geeta.
- (b) I saw everyone except Geeta.
- (c) Except Geeta, I saw nothing.
- (d) Except Geeta, I saw something.

**Answer:** (b) I saw everyone except Geeta.



**7. He decided to walk instead of taking a taxi.**

[Begin with : Rather than]

- (a) Rather than not taking a taxi, he decided to walk.
- (b) Rather than not taking a taxi, he decided not to walk.
- (c) Rather than taking a taxi, he decided to walk.
- (d) Rather than taking a taxi, he decided not to walk.

**Answer:** (c) Rather than taking a taxi, he decided to walk.

**8. In spite of bad weather, a huge crowd came to see the match.**

[Begin with : The bad weather]

- (a) The bad weather deterred the huge crowd from coming to see the match.
- (b) The bad weather didn't deter the huge crowd from coming to see the match.
- (c) The bad weather hadn't deter the huge crowd from coming to see the match.
- (d) The bad weather did deter the huge crowd from coming to see the match.

**Answer:** (b) The bad weather didn't deter the huge crowd from coming to see the match.

**QUESTION 5.**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follows.**

In Varanasi district, there is a village called Bira in which an old, childless widow used to live. She was a gond woman named Bhungi and she didn't own either a scrap of land or a house to live in. Her only source of livelihood was a parching oven. The village folk customarily have one meal a day of parched grains, so there was always a crowd around Bhungi's oven. Whatever grain she was paid for parching, she would grind or fry and eat it.

She slept in a corner of the same little shack that sheltered the oven. As soon as it was light she'd get up and go out to gather dry leaves from all around to make her fire. She would stack the leaves right next to the oven, and after twelve, light the fire. But on the days when she had to parch grain for Pandit Udaybhan Pandye, the owner of the village, she went to bed hungry.

She was obliged to work without pay for Pandit Udaybhan Pandey. She also had to fetch water for his house. And, for this reason, from time to time the oven was not lit. She lived in the Pandit's village; therefore he had full authority to make her do any sort of odd job. In his opinion, if she received food for working from him, how could it be considered as work done without pay? He was doing her a favour, in fact, by letting her live in the village at all. It was spring and a day on which the fresh grain was fried and eaten and given as a gift. No fire was lit in the house.

Bhungi's oven was being put to good use today. There was a crowd worthy of a village fair around her. She had scarcely any opportunity to draw a breath.

Because of the impatience of the customers, squabbles kept breaking out. Then two servants arrived, each carrying a heaped basket of grain from Pandit Udaybhan with the order to parch it right away. When Bhungi saw the two baskets, she was alarmed. It was already after twelve and even by sunset, she would not have time to parch so much grain. Now, she would have to stay at the parching oven until after dark for no payment. In despair, she took the two baskets. One of the flunkeys said menacingly, 'Don't waste any time or you'll be sorry' With this command, the servants went away and Bhungi began to parch the grain. It's no laughing matter to parch a whole maund of grain. She had to keep stopping from the parching in order to keep the oven fire going. So, by sundown not even half the work was done. She was afraid Panditji's men would be coming. She began to move her hands all the more frantically. Soon, the servants returned and said, 'Well, is the grain parched'?

Feeling bold, Bhungi said, "Can't you see? I'm parching it now" "The whole day's gone and you haven't finished any more grain than this! Have you been roasting it or spoiling it? This is completely uncooked! How's it going to be used for food?

It's the ruin of us! You'll see what Panditji does to you for this."

The result was that the same night the oven was dug up and Bhungi was left without a means of livelihood.

**(i) For each word given below, choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided.**

**1. squabbles (line 20)**

- (a) battles
- (b) talking to someone
- (c) quarrels
- (d) debates

**Answer:** (c) quarrels

**2. flunkeys (line 25)**

- (a) puppeteers
- (b) home wreckers
- (c) employers
- (d) man servants

**Answer:** (d) man servants

**(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'daring'?**

- (a) obliged
- (b) alarmed
- (c) afraid
- (d) parch

**Answer:** (c) afraid

**(iii) Answer the following questions briefly using your own words.**

**(a) What did one of the servants of Pandit Udaybhan warn Bhungi?**

**Answer:** One of the servants of Pandit Udaybhan warned Bhungi not to waste any time or she would regret it.

**(b) Which word in the passage shows that the old woman started working hastily in a disorderly manner out of anxiety?**

**Answer:** The word 'frantically' in line 46 shows that the woman started working hastily in a disorderly manner out of anxiety.

**(c) Why was Pandit Udaybhan against paying Bhungi?**

**Answer:** Pandit Udaybhan was against paying Bhungi because he was the owner of the village in which Bhungi stayed and she was obliged to him for allowing her to stay there.

**(d) How did Bhungi earn her livelihood?**

**Answer:** Bhungi was a Gond woman, a childless widow. She earned her livelihood by parching grain in the parching oven she had.

**(e) What does the author mean by "She had scarcely any opportunity to draw a breath"?**

**Answer:** The author means that Bhungi had to work continuously without a break.

**(iv) Describe the hard work and the plight of Bhungi, in your own words not exceeding 50.**

**Answer:** The Bhungi, traditionally manual scavengers, endure harsh, dehumanizing labor, cleaning human waste by hand. Often marginalized and stigmatized, they face social discrimination and poor living conditions, with little access to education or opportunities, reflecting a legacy of caste-based oppression.

**ICSE Board**  
**Class X English Language**  
**Board Paper – 2017**

**Total time: 2hrs**

**Max. Marks: 80**

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**General Instructions:**

*Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will **not** be allowed to write during the first **15** minutes.*

*This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*

*The time given at the head of the paper is the time allotted for writing the answers.*

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*Attempt all four questions.*

*The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].*

*You are advised to spend not more than 35 minutes in answering Question 1  
and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.*

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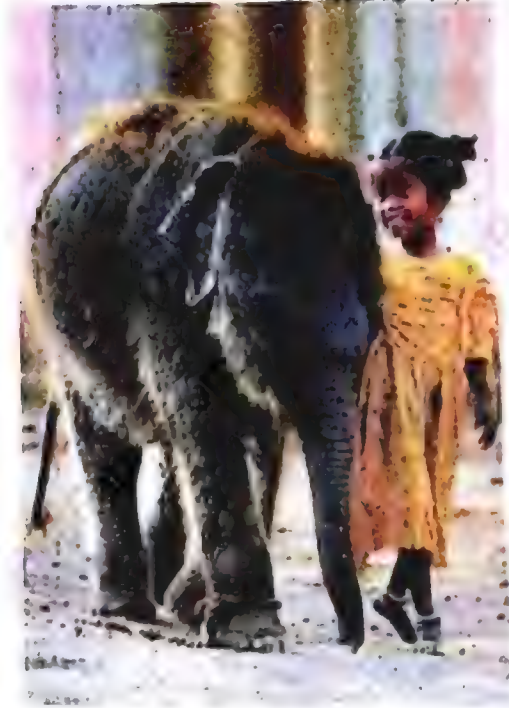
**Question 1**

(Do not spend more than 35 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (350 - 400 words) on any one of the following: [25]

- (a) Write an original short story that begins with the words: "It was raining hard that night. In my hurry to get into the house, I didn't notice the black car parked across the road. I realized something was wrong when....."
- (b) "School days are the happiest days of our lives." Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (c) Narrate an incident from your own experience when you helped a friend who was in trouble. Explain what happened. What did you do to make the situation better?
- (d) There has been heavy rain in your city/town. You went to school but found that it was closed because of the rain. Describe the sights and sounds near the school and narrate how you finally reached home and spent the rest of the day.
- (e) Study the picture give below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it: however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.





### Question 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select any one of the following:

[10]

- (a) A number of loose electric wires are hanging from a lamp post near the main gate of your school. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner explaining the problem, the danger it poses and suggest a quick solution.
- (b) You were a part of an organizing committee for an inter-school event which was very successful. You and the other committee members were congratulated and praised at the school assembly by the Principal. Write a letter to your grandmother telling her about the event and your feelings at being recognized and praised in front of the school.

### Question 3

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Every Monday, on his way back from work, Bipin Chowdhury would drop in at New Market to buy books. He had to buy at least five at a time to last him through the week. He lived alone, was not a good mixer, had few friends, and didn't like spending time in idle chat. Those who called in the evening got through their business quickly and left. Those who didn't show signs of leaving would be told around eight o'clock by Bipin Babu that he was under doctor's orders to have dinner at eight-thirty. After dinner he would rest for half an hour and then turn in with a book. This was a routine which had persisted unbroken for years.

Today, Bipin Babu had the feeling that someone was observing him from close quarters. He turned round and found himself looking at a round-faced, meek-looking man who now broke into a smile.

[10]

'I don't suppose you recognize me.'

Bipin Babu felt ill at ease. It didn't seem that he had ever encountered this man before. The face seemed quite unfamiliar.

'Have we met before?' asked Bipin Babu.

The man looked greatly surprised. 'We met every day for a whole week. I arranged for a car to take you to the Hudroo falls. My name is Parimal Ghose.'

'Ranchi?'

Now Bipin Babu realized this man was making a mistake. Bipin Babu had never been to Ranchi. He smiled and said, 'Do you know who I am?' [20]

The man raised his eyebrows, and said, 'Who doesn't know Bipin Chowdhury?'

Bipin Babu turned towards the bookshelves and said, 'You're making a mistake. I've never been to Ranchi.'

The man now laughed aloud.

What are you saying. Mr. Chowdhury? You had a fall in Hudroo and cut your right knee. I brought you iodine. I had fixed up a car for you to go to Netarhat the next day, but you couldn't because of the pain in the knee. Can't you recall anything? Someone else you know was also in Ranchi at that time. Mr. Dinesh Mukherjee. You stayed in a bungalow. You said you didn't like hotel food. I'll tell you more: you always carried a bag with your books in it on your sightseeing trips. Am I right or not?' [30]

Bipin Babu spoke quietly, his eyes still on the books.

'Which month in Nineteen fifty- eight are you talking about?'

The man said, 'October.'

'No, sir,' said Bipin Babu. I spent October Nineteen fifty- eight with a friend in Kanpur. You're making a mistake. Good day.'

But the man didn't go, nor did he stop talking.

'Very strange. One evening I had tea with you on the veranda of your bungalow. You spoke about your family. You said you had no children, and that you had lost your wife a decade ago.[40]

When Bipin Babu had paid for the books and was leaving the shop, the man was still looking at him in utter disbelief.

Bipin Babu's car was safely parked in Bertram Street. He told the driver as he got into the car, 'Just drive by the Ganga, will you, Sitaram.' Driving up the itrand Road, Bipin Babu regretted having paid so much attention to the intruder. He had never been to Ranchi. He had an

excellent memory.

Unless he was losing his mind!

(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: [3]

One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

(i) persisted (line 9)

(ii) decade (line 42)

(iii) intruder (line 48)

(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

(i) How did Bipin Chowdhury find time to read five books a week? [2]

(ii) How did he get rid of visitors who stayed late? [2]

(iii) Which sentence tells you that Bipin Babu was uncomfortable? [2]

(iv) What strong argument did Bipin Babu give to prove that he was not in Ranchi at that time? [2]

(v) What does Bipin Babu regret? [2]

(vi) What are Bipin Babu's feelings at the end of the passage? [2]

(c) (i) What memories of the trip does Parimal Ghose evoke to prove that Bipin Babu was indeed in Ranchi? Answer in not more than 60 words. [8]

(ii) Give a title to your summary in 3(c)(i). Give a reason to justify your choice of the title. [2]

#### Question 4

(a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

Example:

Answer: (0) started

My mother (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (start) school when she (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (he) six

And (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) the same term. She was unusual in the village as \_\_\_\_\_

she had a father and brother who (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (encourage) her to go to school. She was

the only in a class of boys and claims she was brighter than the boys. But every day she (4)

\_\_\_\_\_ (will) leave behind her girl cousins (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (play) at home and she (6)

\_\_\_\_\_ (envy) them. There (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (seem) to be no point in (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (go)

to school just to end up doing housework.

(a) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word: [4]

(i) She shouted angrily \_\_\_\_\_ the disobedient boy.

(ii) I asked them to provide us \_\_\_\_\_ a guide.

(iii) The tree grew at a dangerous slant and had to be cut \_\_\_\_\_.

(iv) My daughter believes \_\_\_\_\_ fairies.

- (v) He drew a beautiful diagram \_\_\_\_\_ the board.  
(vi) She battled her way \_\_\_\_\_ the crowd.  
(vii) We were asked to gather \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher.  
(viii) They had to climb \_\_\_\_\_ the steep pathway to reach the top.

(b) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and , but or so: [4]

- (i) This is the hospital .I was born here.  
(ii) The children have been sick for a week. They were unable to go to school.  
(iii) Mrs. Kumar has been a teacher for thirty years. She will now retire.  
(iv) We have had no respect for nature. Now we are suffering from the effects of global warming.

(c) Re-write the following sentence according to the instruction given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [8]

- (i) Not many people read for pleasure these days.

(Being: Few .....)

- (ii) Since her childhood Meera has been good in Mathematics.

(End: ..... childhood.)

- (iii) "We have had no rain since January", Ramu said.

(Being: Ramu said that they .....)

- (iv) It is dangerous as well as illegal to drive a motorcycle without a helmet.

(Being: It is not .....)

- (v) He had plenty of wealth but he was not happy.

(Being: In spite.....)

- (vi) He was so tired that he could not stand.

(Use: too)

- (vii) Every one of them was an experienced mountaineer.

(Being: There was no .....)

- (viii) I have never seen a film as bad as this

(Being: This is .....)



## Solution

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### Question 1 (a)

It was raining hard that night. In my hurry to get into the house, I didn't notice the black car parked across the road. I realised something was wrong when I could see someone hovering around the car. I wasn't sure if it was safe to go to the car to investigate but my instincts dragged me from the gate of my building to across the road and next to the car. What happened in that half an hour is what I call my most unforgettable memory.

I could see a man pacing up and down, drenched and injured. At first when I saw him, he looked inebriated as he was losing his balance now and then. But as I went near him, I was sure it was the injury and not any substance that was causing him to tip.

"Excuse me Sir! Can I help you?" I asked him. He seemed to be in a state of shock. I tried calling out to him but he continued going round and round his car. I was not comfortable reaching out to him physically and I thought he might attack me in his condition. But there was no one I could call as my phone had switched off after getting wet in the rain. Also, if I went home, which was just across the street, my over-protective mother would panic and wouldn't let me help him. So there I was, feeling helpless and angry, because I decided to help someone without knowing what to do.

I remember standing in the rain for quite some time, staring at the man hovering around his car, feeling absolutely worthless. Then in a flash of a moment, I found myself walking towards him and reaching out to his shoulder. I must have been really stupid to do that!

"Sir!" I shouted as I grabbed his shoulder, "Can you tell me your name? Do you live around here?"

The man seemed to have lost his ability to hear or see or feel as he continued to walk around his car, only that now he was crying and shivering .because of the rain.

I grabbed both his shoulders and tried to talk again.

"I will help you! Tell me what I you want! Is this your car?"

I repeatedly asked him the above questions for at least five minutes before his finally looked at me and broke down. At that point, to be honest, I was scared to death, because he wouldn't stop screaming and trembling. After a while, he began to come back to his senses and began to calm down. Finally, when he stopped crying, he looked at me and told me that he was a second-year DU student who was out for a school reunion party at one of the schoolmate's farmhouse on the outskirts of the city. He had happily agreed to go for the party because obviously we are always excited to meet our school buddies and relive the happy school memories. When he entered the farmhouse, he told me that everything was fine for a couple of hours. HE then said that they began playing a game which turned into an unpleasant episode of bullying him. He was majorly bullied by a school group when in school and at the party too, the group started bullying him. When he retaliated, they faked an apology and offered him a drink.

"I was foolish to assume that they were truly sorry and that they had grown up," he told me, now smiling as if recollecting what happened at the party. He told me that he doesn't remember what

happened after he took that drink. He only remembers me screaming at him.

“When I regained consciousness, my head hurt and I was lying on the street, drenched, outside my car. I don’t even know what part of the city I am in. They must have put me in the car and brought me here. And they must have thrown me out of my own car and thrown away the keys after locking it so that I can’t go home.”

The man, whose name was Kabir, thanked me for being there. He asked me which place he had been abandoned, and asked the way to the nearest police station. I took him with me and told our complex watchman to guard his car for the night. My mother calmed down as she heard the whole story and nursed his wounds. Kabir slept at my place that night. The next morning, mom and I accompanied him to the police station and lodged an FIR. Kabir said he wanted to get a blood test done as he thought he had been made to take drugs through the drink. He was right. He gave the details of the farmhouse and of his friends. The police sealed the farmhouse and arrested the friends.

Kabir and I became good friends forever after the incident. He taught me to be cautious of people, because some people can never be trusted no matter how much time has passed. He also taught me that it is okay to have a moment of fear. If you have a helping hand around, you can overcome fear and get back on your feet again.

### **Question 1 (b)**

**For the statement: School days are the happiest days of our lives.**

One of the luckiest things to have is a happy childhood. And school is an unforgettable part of our happy childhood, isn’t it? There is something about childhood that no other phase of your life can replace. I believe school days are the happiest days of our lives because we are protected, loved unconditionally, and free from worldly responsibilities.

School days were the best as your mum allowed you five extra minutes in bed every second day. It was nice to be a school goer as only had to race with your friends till the bus stop and not run to the bus depot or metro station to get to work on time. If you were late to school you could blame your school bus, or your mother who served your breakfast late, or your dog who chewed off your shoe, or your friend who pushed you into a puddle just for fun. Your parents watched over you and when they didn’t you were looked after by your teachers and older siblings and even the nosy neighbours and the scary watchman of your complex. You had so many people to catch you in case you fell.

School days were better than today because no matter how many window panes we broke or tyres we punctured, we were loved and showered with affection by our parents. Our older siblings always fought for us even if we were wrong. Our grandparents pampered us spoilt in the vacations with grandma cooking delicious meals and grandpa taking us to adventure trips in the woods. No matter how bad a student we may have been at school, mum always tucked us lovingly into bed and prayed for bad dreams to go away.

School projects, impending exams, weekly tests; these were all 'I don't care' for us but nightmares for our parents. No matter how close the exam day was, we would continue to sleep for those extra five minutes in bed while mum gathered material for us to quickly revise our lessons. While we spend the evenings playing downstairs, our parents would invoke all the creative spirits and complete our projects and assignments. We got to walk gloriously in school when the assignment they completed gave us A+. We were untouched by stress and the struggles of being responsible for one's actions all the time.

In conclusion, I reiterate that school days are the happiest days of our lives because we are protected, loved unconditionally, and free from worldly responsibilities. At the end of a day in school, our feet were dirty, hair was messy, but our eyes were sparkling with a wish to have another wonderful day at school tomorrow.

### **Against the statement: School days are the happiest days of our lives.**

For some school goers, the sun is always shiny and people around are always nice. But for some school goers, school is not the happiest memory of their childhood. It is full of peer pressure, lack of confidence and being bullied.

At school, every deficit that you have is mocked at by your classmates. You are always supposed to 'fit in' if you want to belong to a group. If your classmate got a new school bag with the photo of the latest superhero, you need that bag because otherwise you don't fit in. If pink coloured flowery stationery pouches are trending, you must have them or you will feel out of place when you are doing group studies at your friend's place. If your friends use expensive gadgets, they influence you to want that gadget because you belong to their group, and birds of the same feather flock together.

School days are the worst nightmares for introverts. You hate being a part of the full-house morning assembly. You hate being picked by your teacher for loud reading in front of the whole class. You pray that you don't have to participate in any elocution competitions. You are miserably nervous on the day your friend doesn't come to school because then you have to travel alone and face people. School is the worst for people who don't have high confidence levels.

The most miserable part of school life is being bullied by classmates stronger and outgoing than you were. You have bad dreams about an episode of you being cornered by bullies in the restroom in school. It happens all the time. They catch you at vulnerable points and your modesty and self-respect is compromised over and over again. And because you are shy, you are too scared to go and complain to your teacher.

Students who like to be by themselves are called losers, and the whole class spares no moment to make fun of them. School is not the happiest memory of childhood for some. It is full of peer pressure, lack of confidence and being bullied.

### **Question 1 (c)**

She was not the best person you could have as a friend, but I liked her for her honesty and uniqueness. Kathy and I had been friends since second grade, and now as we prepared for our board exams together, she was like my sister. But she was the trouble maker whom my parents disliked a lot.

Last night Kathy called me up and said her parents had found out about she being a part of a band. Kathy loved to play the guitar, and I liked to watch her play because she burned all her negative energy while doing that. Kathy's parents are accomplished doctors and want her to only pursue medicine as a career. Kathy on the other hand barely manages to score average in PCMB. She loves studying languages and art. So when her parents got her into the best coaching institute in the city for board preparations, Kathy managed to attend those classes barely for a semester. Her love for the band drove her to steal some money from her parents' closet and bribe a poor student at the class to be her proxy.

So Kathy told me that someone from the classes had informed her father that she had stopped coming after the first semester, and that is how they found out that she was with her band and not in her class. They had locked her up in the room and threatened to throw away her guitar and cut her expenses if she didn't mend her ways. It was past midnight when she called me so it was not possible for me to go to her home. But she needed help because being away from the guitar made her sad and angry at the world. I didn't want her to hurt herself in misery. So I did what my mother always does when I am upset.

I let her continue talking. I reasoned out with her and made her confess that it was criminal to use a less-privileged student selfishly. I tried telling her that making a career as a musician wouldn't possibly give her the luxuries her parents provided her with. She would have to struggle and live on her own one day. Also, I told her why it was important to go the classes. She was an average student, which meant if he failed her boards, she would have to pull herself through PCMB again. So it was best in her case that she apologised to her parents and promise that she'd stop going to the band until the exams got over.

Kathy did apologise to her father. She took the guitar and locked it and promised that she would practise only for an hour a day to relax after the day's study routine was complete. Her parents were nice enough to believe her, and she didn't let them down. Although Kathy didn't score well in PCMB, she topped the state in Languages and Arts. Her extraordinary score in music got her a scholarship from a leading college. Kathy's parents finally understood that the scalpel wouldn't look as good in Kathy's hands as a guitar. They accepted her as she was. Kathy is now a researcher who is studying how music can help autistic children cope with their illness. Looks like she met her parents halfway.

### **Question 1 (d)**



It was just another morning of a regular rainy season in Mumbai when I woke up at 6 am to see off my father going to Bhopal for work. It was cloudy and dull with some drizzle but everything looked peaceful.

I lazed around till about 7 am and then got out of bed to get ready for school. By around 8am, when I was ready to leave home, I realised that it had been raining heavily for quite some time now. When I looked out of the kitchen window, I watched trees swaying and the drains has begun to overflow. Should I go to school at all? But then I had to go because it was internal assignment day. And I was a student who had never skipped school. So I set out much to my mother's reluctance.

As I walked towards the main street, I saw a big traffic jam at the junction. I could barely see anything as it was now pouring badly. I waited for the signal to show the 'walk' sign, keeping my raincoat cap from pulling off, wiping my spectacles again and again. On days like these, I wished I could see clearly without my eye glasses. It was only a ten minute walk to my school but the rain was getting worse by the minute. By now, my school uniform was all wet under my raincoat and I had begun to feel cold. I would usually walk quickly down the lane occasionally stopping by House No 3 in the lane to spend some time with the owners' pet dog. When I reached their gate, I saw that their fence and the front side of the house had been damaged because a tree fell on their fence and on their house. I was beginning to get scared now as there was knee-deep water in front of me. I struggled to wade through the dirty water and somehow reached my school gate, only to have the worst experience of my life. A school student fell into an open drain outside my school gate right in front of my eyes. She just slipped away in front of her mother. But before I could react, the school watchman who was helping students standing outside pulled her up.

I was in tears now, and I wanted to go home to my mother. I dragged myself to the gate and asked the watchman to help me. They had closed the school for the day. I was taken to the staff room and given hot tea and something to eat. My mother was informed that I was safe in school and that they would keep all students here till the rain subsided. My teachers did their best to make us comfortable, although they too were drenched, shivering, and scared too. They had left their families and children at home, just to make sure we would be fine.

It stopped raining late in the evening and when my mother came to pick me, I was the happiest person on the planet to see her. We went home and on our way I met Percy, the pet dog from House No 3. They had decided to temporarily shift to another location and they were all safe. Back home, I was treated with my favourite dishes for dinner and was tucked into bed with some medicines for the slight cold and fever I got because of being in the rain for long. As I lay awake in bed, staring at the ceiling, I realised that I could have avoided the misadventure by thinking about the situation and staying indoors for the day. I was blinded by my stubbornness to not bend according to the situation. I learnt my lesson. Sometimes it is better to bend than to break.

### Question 1 (e)

A man never became poor by offering kindness. So is what I heard my parents and elders saying when I was little. The other day while visiting my grandparents, I actually experienced this for real.

My grandparents live in a small village in Goa and I love to visit them every summer after school closes for the year. This year, when I reached there, the whole village was abuzz with preparations for the once-in-five-years culture fair where villages from all over come and participate. As I took a local bus home from the main bus stand, I saw colourful canopies and stalls being set up. There were villagers setting up their stalls where they would put up handicrafts, eatables, spices, earthenware, ancient herbs, and exotic pets. Yes, I saw a board advertising 'exotic pets for sale for the first time!' and I was a little surprised and excited. I was not old enough to understand that exotic pets may have smuggled from their habitat and made to survive here under harsh conditions. Anyway, the bus kept moving and I kept thinking about the delicious food grandma was preparing for me – her famous chocolate pie and roast duck and of course, the delicious jackfruit cake!

As I was gobbling up the food in my dreams, the bus jerked to a halt throwing me out of my seat. I heard a lot of commotion and heard many passengers saying 'is it dead...is it dead!' I got up from my seat and peeped through the crowd. Our bus had crashed into a compound of a circus company. The circus was a part of the fair. We all got down from the bus and I ran ahead to see who the 'it' was. As I pushed myself through the crowd and came in front of the bus, I saw a baby elephant lying there. I could hear the mother elephant trumpeting loudly from her tent inside the circus. It was such a devastating site! How could this poor calf have possibly sneaked out of the circus and come in front of our bus? What would happen now? No one bothered to go closer to the calf and check if it was alive. Everyone was discussing about how to move it aside so that the road could be cleared. The driver and the conductor of the bus were seen offering something to the circus manager so that he wouldn't make a fuss. I was beginning to feel woeful for the little calf and the mistreatment it was going to receive.

Suddenly, I heard a little voice calling out some name, and with every second the voice got closer to the elephant calf. It was a little girl, about six years old, screaming 'Appu...Appu!!!' and hugging the calf sobbing terribly. She was the daughter of a mahout, who had a deal with the circus manager to transport unwanted elephant calves into the forest or to temples. Now I felt all the more miserable for the girl and the elephant. The calf must have been special for her, I thought. As I tried to calm myself down resigning to fate, I saw something and it was nothing but pure miracle. The calf started moving. It wasn't dead but unconscious, and as the girl called out to him repeatedly, it started moving its body vigorously. Finally, it opened its eyes and stood on all fours, hugging the girl with its plump trunk. The girl was ecstatic on seeing Appu alive. It was wounded but alive and kicking. She placed Appu's trunk on her shoulder and helped it walk off the road. The road cleared and our bus took off.

I had a wonderful time with my grandparents. Grandma had cooked and baked everything I had thought of, and we also visited the fair. On my way back to the main bus stop in the local bus, I saw the same little girl with Appu and they both were roaming at the fair. I heard the circus manager allowed the girl to have him as her pet and that her father was building a shed for their new family member. She smiled as she talked to him, as if the animal understood what she said and the calf played with her pigtails with its trunk. May be the animal did understand what she was saying. Kindness is a language everyone understands, isn't it?

### **Question 2 (a)**

Gautam Bhandari  
Grade 10, DPS School  
36 Chourangee Lane

To  
Municipal Commissioner  
14 May 2017

Subject: Loose wires unattended outside school gate

Sir,

I am a tenth grade student from DPS School and am writing to inform that your team left live wires hanging from a lamp post after a maintenance check two days ago.

The wires are dangling right in front of our school's main gate, and are causing a great inconvenience to the students and staff. The other day, one of our school peons got an electric shock while garlanding the school arch during a school annual day.

It would be great if you took immediate action and repair the lamp post. Any further delay could put innocent student lives at risk.

Waiting in anticipation for your prompt action.

Yours faithfully,  
Gautam Bhandari

### **Question 2 (b)**

Bumika Kiran  
12/24 Karol Bagh  
Delhi-6

Dear Grandma,

Hope you are going well. I am sorry I haven't been able to write to you for the last two months as I was busy organising an inter-school elocution competition for my school. I was a part of the organising committee and was responsible for managing the hospitality for the 7 guest schools. There were 16 finalists in all, 14 of which had come from schools all over the state.

The elocution competition was very successful, and our committee was praised for our courteous behaviour with the participants. Our Principal addressed the school assembly today and read out a letter of thanks from all the guest schools that mentioned all our names.

It was a proud moment for me and I was overwhelmed to have received appreciation for being a good person. Thank you for instilling these values in me. Without your pearls of wisdom, I would have never been able to take care of strangers as my own people without losing my cool under pressure. But you have always taught me to be kind to others no matter what.

I hope I can always remain a kind person even when I am as old as you, grandma.

Until next time, love you and miss you!

Yours lovingly,

Bhumika

### **Question 3 (a)**

- (i) persisted – continued
- (ii) decade – ten years
- (iii) intruder – meddler

### **Question 3 (b)**

(i) Bipin was not very good at mixing with people. Every Monday from his way back from work, he would buy five books. After having dinner at 8:30, he would rest for half an hour and turn to a book. This was a routine he had been following for years.

(ii) If the visitors did not leave by eight, he would tell that his doctor had advised him to have dinner by 8:30. This would make the visitors leave.

(iii) The sentence 'Bipin Babu fell ill at ease' tells us that he was uncomfortable.

(iv) The man said that he had met Bipin Babu in Ranchi in October 1958. To this, Bipin strongly argued that in October nineteen fifty-eight with a friend in Kanpur.

(v) He regretted having paid so much attention to an intruder.



(vi) Bipin Babu is confident of his excellent memory despite all the claims made by the intruder.

**Question 3 (c)**

(i) Parimal Ghose said that Bipin Babu had a fall in Hudroo and he had nursed him. He had fixed his car and that Bipin stayed in a bungalow with Mr Dinesh Mukherjee. He also said that Bipin liked to carry a bag of books during sight-seeing. Parimal said that he had tea with Bipin in his bungalow and was told that Bipin had no children or wife.

(ii) Down the memory lane. I chose this title because Parimal Ghosh is trying to make Bipin Babu remember things from the Ranchi trip.

**Question 4 (a)**

- 1) was
- 2) stopped
- 3) encouraged
- 4) would
- 5) playing
- 6) envied
- 7) seemed
- 8) going

**Question 4 (b)**

- i. at
- ii. with
- iii. down
- iv. in
- v. on
- vi. through
- vii. around
- viii. onto

**Question 4 (c)**

- i. This is the hospital where I was born.
- ii. As the children were sick for a week they have been unable to go to school.
- iii. Mrs. Kumar, who has been a teacher for forty years, will now retire.
- iv. Having had no respect for nature, we are suffering from the effects of global warming.

**Question 4 (d)**

- i. Few people read for pleasure these days.
- ii. Meera has been good in Mathematics since childhood.
- iii. Ramu said that they had had no rains since January.
- iv. It is not only dangerous but also illegal to drive a motorcycle without a helmet.
- v. In spite of having plenty of wealth he was unhappy.
- vi. He was too tired to stand.
- vii. There was no inexperienced mountaineer among them.
- viii. This is the worst film I have seen.

# ICSE Paper 2019

## English Language

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### PAPER – 1 (Two hours)

- Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
  - You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
  - This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
  - The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
  - Attempt all five questions.
  - The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].
  - You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.
- 

#### Question 1.

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.) [20]

Write a composition of (300 – 350 words) on any one of the topics given below:

(a) Write an original short story in which two children and their Grandfather are the main characters.

(b) Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) must be installed in every classroom. Give your views either for or against this statement.

(c) Your class had to conduct a Morning Assembly. Write an account of how you prepared for it, what your role was and what you gained from the experience.

(d) Summers are becoming hotter with each passing year. Write a description of one such very hot day. What did you see and hear as you walked outside? How were birds and animals affected ?

(e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be clear connection between the picture and your composition.



**Answers :**

(a) Ramesh and Sneha were the siblings aged twelve and nine. They had been taught to defend themselves in any eventuality. One evening on a Saturday, they were alone at home doing their home work. Their grandfather had gone for his daily evening walk. All of a sudden there was a sudden and threatening knock on the gate. But as they were fully occupied with their studies, they did not entertain any fear. But when the door was rapped repeatedly, Ramesh felt that there was someone outside asking them to open the door.

But before the grandfather left, he had forewarned his grandchildren against such occurrence. Ramesh being quite smart and alert, rang up his grandfather quietly telling of the gate being knocked. Sneha was a bit scared, but Ramesh cheered her up saying that Grandfather had been informed of this and that he would come surely and take all the steps necessary for their welfare and safety.

Grandfather who had not gone very far off was still in the park. As soon as he received the phone call from his grandson Ramesh, he talked for a second with his friend! He lost no time to reach his residence. But the knockers or miscreants no sooner did they see the two men walking towards them than they began to take to their heels. Grandfather who had taken all the preemptive steps proved the better of the miscreants, as he had also informed the nearby police station of the regular nuisance being created in the surroundings.

The two constables seemed to come from nowhere and they pounced upon the feeling trouble makers who were taken to the police station for interrogation and follow-up action. Grandfather entered the house and found Sneha deeply disturbed. He consoled her and applauded Ramesh for his alertness and presence of mind in dealing with the tense situation. Ramesh's parents who were away to attend some official function in



another city on hearing this felt proud of their son who always showed fearlessness and courage in any trying situation.

(b) For the statement Installing closed circuit television in every classroom is going to be a 'powerful instrument to keep proper decorum and discipline in a school or college classroom. It is argued in favour of this that when the students and the teachers are being closely watched through CCTV's being monitored by the, head of the institution the desired results will be positive and concrete. No, doubt there is going to be a huge clamour against this move.

Some will, surely protest against installing CCTV's on the ground that their liberties of expression and movement are going to be thwarted, others will oppose the move thinking that they are being pried upon unnecessarily. But it is not difficult to set aside their arguments taking into consideration the overall good results that will ensue by installing this device of closely watching the activities and atmosphere in the classroom.

The device will prove a big boon to the authorities. The head of the institution will feel surely less burdened with cases of indiscipline if he is in a position to monitor each classroom through this device. There is rampant indiscipline in our institutions. Schools and colleges witness widespread rowdyism and hooliganism on account of the restlessness among students and dissatisfaction of the teachers.

Students bunk classes and stray into nearby refreshment houses, canteens or cinema halls. Restlessness is writ large on many a face. If we wish to create proper study atmosphere in our classrooms and want to see our students and teachers do their primary job sincerely, we can hope to attain a great deal by installing the closed circuit televisions.

Not only will it give a healthy look to the classroom by keeping everything spick and span, it will also help find out the wrong doer and no innocent person will be ever punished since the footage will make out the things clearer. Thus installing closed circuit television in each classroom will have so many advantages that many disadvantage will weigh too light and look insignificant.

(c) Conducting a morning assembly in a school is an enriching experience in leadership and gaining administrative skills. It is an experience that must be gained to develop one's all round personality. A morning assembly in an institution gives ample scope to a student to keep himself fully acquainted with the school activities and to have interaction with a number of fellow students and a galaxy of teachers.

Last Friday, the Dean of Students Council called me to his office and asked me to take the responsibility of holding the morning assembly of the school on the occasion of the Republic Day celebrations in the school. I was also instructed to seek help of the deputy dean and the head boy of the school. Though at first I did not feel thrilled at the idea, yet on second thought I felt that it was an opportunity given to me to show my acumen in organizing big functions.

At once I got set to work to make it really eventful and memorable. Surinder, my trusted close friend, on learning this volunteered himself to render me every possible help in this, connection. Seeking help from another artist friend. Mr Sunil I got prepared some posters showing importance of the Day. The deputy dean was duly consulted and on taking his nod I prepared the programme to be executed on the day.

The students and the teachers gathered in the open on the appointed day. I had prepared my speech to be made on the occasion. In my speech I welcomed all the students and spoke that we all should be indebted to the freedom fighters whose long and painful struggle won us our freedom. I also highlighted the importance of the Republic Day that we celebrate on 26th January every year. My speech was highly cheered with clappings.

The deputy dean also spoke, laying stress on persevering our freedom and discharging our duties sincerely and doing nothing which may bring a slur on the fair name of the country. All the gathered listened to him with rapt attention. Then a vow was taken by the gathered assembly that we would keep our heads high and spirits cheerful for the upliftment of the country.

This experience of holding the morning assembly was challenging but rewarding. This has stilled confidence in me and enhanced my organizational capabilities. The experience has taught me the value of interacting with fellow students. With open mind and the spirit of cooperation anything can be achieved.

(d) Summers are getting hotter with each passing year. The effect of the climate change is being felt all around. In spite of so many facilities with which to fight the scorching heat during summer, the heat of the season continues to torment the people, the poor being hit the worst. This year, the 6th of June was regarded as the hottest day of the year. The vertical rays of the sun began to be felt soon after the morning. It was close. At noon, it was almost impossible to go out of doors. Lemonade and other cold drinks failed to quench thirst.

We had hardly finished our lunch when the power broke down. I had planned to have a nap after lunch. Even this was snatched due to the failure of our inverter. I was feeling agitated and upset when my uncle dropped in unexpectedly. Though we welcomed him

yet the unbearable heat of the sun was oppressing our nerves so acutely that somehow our inner irritability at the power breakdown betrayed itself. My mother asked me to go to the market to bring some household items for the kitchen.

Willy nilly I had to go out. I took an umbrella to protect myself from sunstroke. As I was moving about, I found some poor rickshaw pullers carrying their load, sweating hard. As I looked towards the fields, the cows and buffaloes were equally disquiet due to extreme heat from which there appeared no respite. The birds in the trees were also quiet.

It took me half an hour to complete my errand. I had to take water twice on the way as my lips were getting dry. When I reached home at about 4 pm I felt a sigh of relief because the conditions outside were much worse than inside. I sat down to relax when all of a sudden the sky was overcast with the clouds of dust. Evidently the dust storm was making its appearance.

Soon it began to blow so hard that we had to close all doors and windows to keep the dust out. It was suffocating inside. The dust storm died down in about fifteen minutes, leaving the dust settling on everything and every being. But thank God, the power was restored and we could have the fans and coolers giving us much needed relief. Such hot days leave their indelible imprint on men, animals and birds.

(e) A school excursion to a nearby lake was arranged to acquaint the students with the flora and fauna of the area. It being an educational trip it was accompanied by the geography teacher who could explain to them the importance of preserving ecology and wildlife. The trip comprised ten boys and girls of 7th and 8th classes. Putting on their school uniforms, they reached their destination in about half an hour.

Their first halt was at a shop dealing in snacks, toys and stationery. Aerated drinks and confectionery fascinated them the most. Mr Sardana, the accompanying teacher, prevailed upon them to avoid any soft drinks or toffees as they are not good for health. The sound advice of the teacher was taken earnestly by the students. Taking a few eatables, they all proceeded to move towards an enclosure where were some birds of different species.

Birds of different hues and sizes uttering varying cries cast a spell on them. The teacher explained to them that man's greed and cruelty has resulted in the depletion of birds population. Some of the birds were really on the verge of extinction. He stressed upon the need to be kind to all birds and animals and the real worth of life is realized when man learns to live in harmony with nature. All the students appreciated the views of the teacher and took a vow to follow his advice and treat all birds with love and kindness.

Aakriti, the most sensitive of them all, resolved that she would feed the birds daily and persuade her parents to do the same too.

Abhinav, the youngest of the lot, was sobbing. When asked why he was sobbing, he told his teacher that he had left his eatables at the shop. The teacher Mr Sardana consoled him that he should not worry and that all of them would share their things with him and they would pick up the eatables as they go back.

Kalpana, the student of 7th class, was found, eating a burger stealthily. She had brought it with her as she took it daily at lunch. The teacher suggested her to avoid eating fast food too frequently. One might take it only occasionally. But one must avoid eating fast food. The excursion was over in about four hours and they returned home in the evening fully refreshed and enlightened about so many things.

### **Question 2.**

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.) [10]

Select one of the following :

(a) You want to start a new club in your school.

Write a letter to your Principal requesting permission to start the club, explain your role in it and give reasons to prove that the club will be beneficial for the school.

(b) Your friend has not fared well in the recent examinations. Write a letter to him/her expressing your concern. Give him/her some advice on how to score better marks and offer to help him/her to improve his/her performance.

### **Answers :**

(a) The Principal  
St. Xaviers School  
Kasauli

Subject: Request to start a new club in school

Sir

All the students of the school feel proud of the excellent functioning of the so many clubs in the school. These clubs are providing great opportunities to the students in their all round development of personality. At the same time it is commonly felt that there is no Health Club in our school. I approach you with an earnest request to start the Health Club in the school at the earliest for the benefit of all the students. The cost of opening this club will be much less in proportion to the overall benefits that will accrue to one and all.

The Health Club will cater to the physical and psychological needs of the students who love to lead tension free healthy life and pursue their studies more wholeheartedly and



devotedly. The Health Club to be headed by a young science teacher will work under your patronage and guide the students what to do to keep themselves disease free. The students need guidance on essential food items to be included in their diet. A yoga instructor should be engaged to instruct the students on the benefits of yoga and meditation. Some tips from him on taking home made-potions will keep them in proper physical shape and strength.

Sir, I am hopeful that you will consider my proposal and take the earliest steps to start the Health Club to ensure healthy mind in healthy body.

With regards

Yours sincerely

Lokesh (Class XII A, Roll No 15)

(b) 45 Nirmal Colony

Tilak Road

Karnal

5 January 20....

Dear Mukesh

I have just received your letter expressing your great dissatisfaction with your performance in the Second Terminal Examination held in December. Your disappointment though quite genuine, is misplaced as I am aware you had not been keeping good health for the last few months. You were also burdened with the responsibility of looking after your ailing mother. Naturally, you did not have sufficient time and energy to attend to your studies. Under the circumstance you need not underestimate your capabilities and intelligence.

Mukesh dear, you must recall how brilliant your career had been throughout. In your class-X examination you had a creditable score. Even now you need not feel worried about the final examination. I am confident of your stamina for work with which to make up for the loss in studies. With your improved health and your mother in a position to attend to herself you will be able to put your heart and soul in your studies and do much better in the final examination.

Dear Mukesh, all is not lost. Look forward to your bright future awaiting you. You may seek help of your close meritorious friends and seek guidance and certain important topics. Prepare your subjects intelligently without resorting to cramming. Go out for a morning walk daily to keep yourself physically fit and mentally sound. I am always ready to render any help you may need. I would like to visit you shortly and help you make plans for intensive preparations for the final examination. Till then stay tension free and in high spirits. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely

Raju

**Question 3. [5 + 5]**

(a) Your school is hosting an Inter-School Quiz Competition.

Write out a notice to be displayed in your school giving all details for the event.

(b) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school requesting him/ her to send a team of three members to participate in the Quiz Competition.

**Answers :**

St. Jude's Convent School, Saharanpur

Notice

10 October 20 ...

Inter-School Quiz Competition

Our school is hosting an Inter-school Quiz Competition on 15 October, 20... at 11 a.m in the school auditorium. As many as nine schools are sending their students to participate in the competition. The Deputy Commissioner has kindly acceded to our request to preside over the function and give away the prizes to the winners. All are requested to attend the function and make it a success.

Dear Sir/Madam

Sanjeev

(Cultural Secretary)

(b) From : prstjcsc@gmail.com

Date : 10 : 10 : 18, 11 : 08 : 25

To : prss@rediffmail.com

CC

Subject : Inter-School Quiz Competition

You will be glad to know that our school is holding an inter-school Quiz Competition on 15 October 20... at 11 am in the school auditorium. It will be a great favour to me if you kindly send three students to participate in the Quiz Competition. I would appreciate if some staff member of your school accompanies these participants. I may assure you that the participants will be looked after well.

Looking forward to your cooperation.

C.J. Avasthi

Principal

St. Jude's Convent School, Saharanpur

**Question 4.**

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Billy Weaver had travelled down from London and by the time he arrived it was nine o'clock in the night and the moon was coming up.

"Excuse me/" he asked a porter, "but is there a cheap hotel nearby ?"

"Try The Bell Hotel," the porter answered, pointing down the road.

Billy thanked him, picked up his suitcase and set out to walk the distance 5 to The Bell Hotel. He had never been to Richmond before. But the man at the Office had told him it was a splendid city.

Billy was seventeen years old. He was wearing a new navy-blue overcoat, a new brown hat, and a new brown suit, and he was feeling fine. He walked briskly down the street. He was trying to do everything briskly 10 these days. The big shots up at the Head Office were fantastically brisk all the time. They were amazing.

The road was lonely and dark with a few scattered houses. Suddenly, in a downstairs window Billy saw a printed notice propped up against the window glass. It said Bed and Breakfast. 15

He moved a bit closer and peered through the window into the room, and the first thing he saw was a bright fire burning in the hearth. On the carpet in front of the fire, a little dog was curled up asleep with its nose tucked into its belly.

The room in half-darkness was filled with pleasant furniture. There was a 20 piano and a big sofa and several plump armchairs; and in one corner he spotted a large parrot in a cage. Animals were usually a good sign in a place like this, Billy told himself and it looked to him as though it would be a pretty decent house to stay in.

Then a queer thing happened to him. He was in the act of stepping back 25 and going away from the window when he felt a strange urge to ring the bell! He pressed the bell. He heard it ringing, and then at once the door swung open and a woman was standing there.

She gave him a warm welcoming smile. 30  
"Please come in," she said pleasantly. Billy found himself automatically moving forward into the house.

"I saw the notice in the window," he said, holding himself back.

"Yes, I know."

"I was wondering about a room". 35

"It's all ready for you, my dear," she said. She had a round pink face and very gentle blue eyes.

"How much do your charge?"

"Five dollars a night, including breakfast."

It was fantastically cheap. He could easily afford it. 40

(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage : [3]

One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

(i) splendid (line 7)

(ii) spotted (line 22)

- (in) automatically (line 21)
- (b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.
- (i) How did the porter assist Billy ? [2]
  - (ii) Why did Billy want to do everything briskly ? [2]
  - (iii) Why did Billy think animals were a good sign in a place like this ? [2]
  - (iv) Which sentence tells you that something strange happened to Billy ? [2]
  - (v) How much did the room cost ? [1]
- (c) In not more than 50 words, give a brief account of what Billy saw as he looked through the window of the room. [8]

**Answers:**

- (a) (i) great
- (ii) noticed
- (iii) instinctively

- (b) (i) The porter assisted Billy by pointing out the name of the hotel that he should try.
- (ii) As the big shots at the Head office were also doing things briskly all the time, Billy too wanted to do everything briskly.
- (iii) Billy thought animals were a good sign in such a place because they gave an atmosphere of homeliness and warmth.
- (iv) He was in the act of stepping back and going away from the window when he felt a strange urge to ring the bell.
- (v) The room cost five dollars a night, including breakfast.

(c) As Billy looked through the window of the room, he saw a bright fire burning in the hearth. A little dog was curled up asleep on the carpet in front of the fire. There was a piano and a big sofa and several plump chairs. He also noticed a parrot in a cage there. It appeared a pretty place to stay in.

**Question 5.**

- (a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. [4]

Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.

Example :

- (o) roamed

Once upon a time, in the days when genies and giants (0) ..... (roam) the land, there (1) ..... (live) a farmer (2) ..... (name) Baba Ayub. He lived with his family in a little village by the name of Maidan Sabz. Because he had a large family to feed, Baba Ayub (3) ..... (see) his days ..... (4) (consume) by hard work. Every day, he



(5) ..... (labour) from dawn to sundown (6) ..... (plow) his field and (7) ..... (turn) the soil and (8) ..... (tend) to his meagre pistachio trees.

(b) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word : [4]

(i) The puppy was hiding ..... the sofa.

(ii) Stop worrying ..... your future.

(iii) When I stepped ..... the lift, I found it had stopped working.

(iv) We had to use a bridge to go ..... the river.

(v) I have lived in this town ..... ten years.

(vi) Please switch ..... all lights and fans when you leave the room.

(vii) Ronnie is married ..... my cousin.

(viii) The gift came ..... a birthday card.

(c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so : [4]

(i) He was very ill. He did not take any medicine.

(ii) You come back from your holiday. We will discuss the problem.

(iii) He remained absent on Friday. It was foolish of him.

(iv) Rahul ran all the way to the bus stop. He missed the bus.

(d) Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each.

Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [8]

(i) The old woman said to Arun, "Can you help me to cross the street ?"

(Begin: The old woman asked Arun .....)

(ii) As soon as the sun rose over the hills, the fog disappeared.

(Begin : No sooner ..... ).

(iii) It rained so heavily that they could not go for the picnic.

(Rewrite : Using 'too ..... to')

(iv) If your friends get here before 7 o'clock we can take them out for dinner.

(Rewrite : Using 'unless' ..... )

(v) The school captain was elected by the students of classes XI and XII.

(Begin : The students ..... )

(vi) Greenland is the largest island in the world.

(Rewrite : Using 'larger' ..... )

(vii) How cruel Shylock was to demand his pound of flesh!

(Begin: It was cruel .....)

(viii) Arun was asked by his mother to explain the missing buttons on his shirt.

(Re-write using: 'explanation')

### Answers :

(a) (1) lived

(2) named

(3) saw

(4) consumed

- (5) laboured
- (6) plowed
- (7) turned
- (8) tended

- (b) (i) under
- (ii) about
- (iii) into
- (iv) across
- (v) for
- (vi) off
- (vii) to
- (viii) with

- (c) (1) Though he was very ill, he did not take any medicine.
- (ii) We will discuss the problem when you come back from your holidays.
- (iii) It was foolish of him to remain absent on Friday.
- (iv) In spite of running all the way to the bus stop Rahul missed the bus.

- (d) (i) The old woman asked Arun if he could help her to cross the street.
- (ii) No sooner did the sun rise over the hills than the fog disappeared.
- (iii) It rained too heavily to go for the picnic.
- (iv) Unless your friends get here before 7 o'clock we cannot take them out for dinner.
- (v) The students of classes XI and XII elected the school captain.
- (vi) Greenland is larger than any other island in the world.
- (vii) It was very cruel of Shylock to demand his pound of flesh.
- (viii) Arun was asked by his mother to give explanation about the missing buttons on his shirt into the hall.

**ICSE 2020**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
**ENGLISH Paper - I**  
**(Two hours)**

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers

Attempt **all five** questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering **Question 1** and 20 minutes in answering **Question 2**.

**Question 1**

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on any one of the following:  
**[20]**

- (a) Write an original short story entitled 'The Secret'
- (b) A family without pets is an incomplete family'  
Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (c) Which do you prefer - morning, afternoon, evening or night?  
Describe your favourite time of the day. What are the sights, sounds, smells and feelings that you associate with your favourite time of the day? Why do you like this part of the day better than the others.
- (d) Have you ever said or done something that changed the life of another person? Give an account of your words or actions that led to this change and describe how the experience made you feel.

- (e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



## Question 2

(Do not spend more than **20** minutes on this question.)

Select **any one** of the following:

- (a) You have changed your Omni recently. Write a letter to your friend in your old school telling him / her what you like about your new school but also what you miss about your old school.
- (b) Some taps in your locality are left open all day resulting in a tremendous waste of water. Write a letter to the Municipal



Commissioner of your town / city, complaining about the problem. Suggest ways in which this waste of water can be prevented.

### Question 3

- (a) Your school is organizing a fete / carnival to raise funds for victims of the recent floods in your State. [5]  
Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board giving details of the event.
- (b) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school, [5]  
inviting him/ her to send their students in attend the fete / carnival.

### Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Attending classes inside a railway carriage seemed unusual enough, but the seating arrangements turned out to be unusual, too. At Totto-chan's previous school each pupil was assigned a specific desk. But here they could sit anywhere they liked at any time.

The most unusual thing of all about this school, however, was the lessons themselves. [5]

Schools normally schedule one subject, for example history, during the first period, when everyone in the class just did history; then say, arithmetic in the second period, when you just did arithmetic. But here it was quite different. At the beginning of the first period, the teacher made a list of all the problems and questions in the subjects to be studied that day. Then she would say, "Now, start with any of these you like." [10]

So, whether you started on history or arithmetic or something else didn't matter at all. Someone who liked composition might be

writing something, while behind you someone who liked chemistry might be boiling something in a flask over an alcohol burner.

This method of teaching enabled the teachers to observe - as the children progressed to higher grades — what they were interested in as well as their way of thinking and their character. It was an Ideal way for teachers to really get to know their pupils. [20]

As for the pupils. they loved being able to start with their favourite tile subject. the fact that they had all day to cope with the subjects), disliked meant they could usually manage them somehow. So, study was mostly **independent**, with pupils free to go and consult the teacher whenever necessary. Then pupils would be given further exercises to work at alone. It was study in the truest sense of the word. and it meant there were no pupils just sitting inattentively while the teacher talked and explained.

The first-grade pupils hadn't quite reached the stage of independent study. but even they were allowed to start with any subject they wanted.

Some copied letters of the alphabet. some drew pictures, some read books. and sonic even did physical exercises. [30]

Just then the boy sitting behind her got up and walked toward the blackboard with his notebook, apparently to consult the teacher. Totto-chan stopped looking around the room and fixed her eyes on his back as he walked. The boy dragged his leg, and his whole body swayed from side to side. Totto-chan wondered at first if he was doing it on purpose, but she soon realized the boy couldn't help it. The boy said brightly, "My name's Yasuaki. What's yours?" She was so glad to hear him speak that she replied loudly, "I'm Totto-chan." [40]

*Adapted from Tow-than*

(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage:  
One-word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

- (i) Assigned (line 3)
- (ii) Ideal (line 19)
- (iii) Independent (line 21)

(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words

- (i) What was unusual about the seating arrangement? [2]
- (ii) How did the method of teaching help the teacher? [2]
- (iii) Why did the pupils enjoy their lessons at this school? [2]
- (iv) What different things did the first-grade pupils do? [2]
- (v) Which sentence in the passage tells us that the boy had [1]  
difficulty in walking like other children?

(c) In not more than 50 words, describe how the children were taught. [8]

### Question 5

(a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.

**Example:**

(1) *taught*

By the time she was three, Matilda had (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) herself to read by (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (study) newspapers and magazines that

- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) around the house. At the age of four, she could
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (read) fast and well and she naturally began
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (hanker) after books. The only book in the whole of this enlightened household was something called Easy Cooking

(5) \_\_\_\_\_ (belong) to her mother, and when she had read this from cover to cover and had (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) all the recipes by heart, she (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) she (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (want) something more interesting.

(b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]

(i) It has been raining \_\_\_\_\_ two hours.

(ii) He just scraped \_\_\_\_\_ his examination.

(iii) Mrs. Kapoor was bent \_\_\_\_\_ attending the meeting

(iv) She is proud and looks \_\_\_\_\_ on her colleagues.

(v) Rahul plays football \_\_\_\_\_ his grandfather.

(vi) The mother was sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the sick child all night

(vii) Monica is leaning \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.

(viii) Rosie is very good \_\_\_\_\_ art and craft

(c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence *without using, and, but or so*. [4]

(i) Sarah and Tyra are twins. They look exactly alike.

(ii) Robin does not like to play cricket. He does not like to play hockey either.

(iv) Sania pushed as hard as she could. The door would not open.

(v) The school bus drove through the gate. The clock was striking eight at that moment.

(d) Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after

each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [8]

(i) The librarian orders books for the school library every year.  
(Begin: Books...)

(ii) No one will deny that the children have worked very hard this year.  
(Begin: Everyone...)

(iii) As soon as the teacher enters, she is greeted by her students.



(Begin: No sooner... )

(vi) She is so busy that she finds no time to entertain her friends.

(Rewrite using 'too

(v) In spite of the very hot weather, Kevin stepped out to buy some bread

(Begin Despite . .)

(vi) Sheela will be selected for the competition only if she auditions.

(Begin: Unless...)

(vii) I would rather eat fruit than a lot of unhealthy junk food

(Begin: I prefer....)

(viii) The tree was cut down ruthlessly.

(Begin: They...)

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## (ENGLISH PAPER – I)

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*Maximum Marks: 80*

*Time allowed: Two hours*

*Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*

*This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*

*The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*

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*Attempt all five questions.*

*The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].*

*You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.*

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### Question 1

*(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)*

Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on **any one** of the following:

[20]

- (i) Write an original short story in which two children and their school teacher are the main characters.
- (ii) Imagine a situation where you get an opportunity to change **one** thing in your school. What would it be? Why do you want to change it? How would you bring about the change?
- (iii) 'School examinations do not test intelligence.'  
Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (iv) You are a regular visitor to your school library. Describe your library. Give details of the familiar sights. What do you see and feel as different students come in and check out the books? Why is this place so important?

- (v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture, or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



### Question 2

[10]

*(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)*

Select *any one* of the following:

- (i) You have had to shift to a new house recently. Write a letter to your grandmother telling her what you miss about your old house. Tell her also what you like about your new house and what you plan to do to make it comfortable for yourself.
- (ii) A certain book / chapter has been included in your syllabus. You have heard that a film version is now available. Write a letter to the Manager of a film theatre near your school, requesting that the film be shown. Tell him / her why it will be beneficial to the students.

### Question 3

- (i) Write a notice to be put up in your school informing the pupils of Classes IX and X about the Remedial Classes to be held after the school hours and asking them to register their names for it. [5]
- (ii) Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school inviting their pupils to attend the classes if they so wish. Give all details of the classes to be held. [5]

#### Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

That huge bell never stopped ringing. It got us out of bed, it *summoned* us for meals, it rang between class periods, it sent us unwillingly to bed.

One morning it failed to ring, or rather, there was no bell to ring. Someone had removed it, and it wasn't found till late in the afternoon.

What a glorious day! As there was no bell to rouse us, everyone got up late, and there was no morning PT. Some of us missed breakfast too. The teachers got confused and mixed up their classes. How could the school manage without it? Confusion reigned.

Of course, no one owned up. It could have meant expulsion. Some suspicion fell on the Sports Captain because of our *aversion* to morning PT, but nothing could be proved.

10

No one was very anxious to find the bell – we were quite happy without it – but it was finally discovered hanging from a branch of one of the trees.

'It may have been Mr. Sharma,' surmised Brian. Mr. Sharma, our Maths teacher, was known to walk in his sleep. And sleepwalkers did funny things sometimes.

'It could be Mool Chand himself,' suggested Cyrus Satarkar.

Mool Chand was the school chowkidar, who also had the job of banging the brass bell at appointed times.

'Why would he throw it away?'

20

'He must be as fed up with ringing it as we are of hearing it.' This was my theory. 'Perhaps he wants a rise in salary.'

The identity of the culprit remained a mystery. Happily, the senior Hockey team went on a winning spree against all comers, and our month-end exams were *restored*.

But soon there was another sensation.

A girl was admitted to our class!

The boys were scandalized. No girl had ever studied in our school before. We protested.

'What's the problem?' asked Mr. Knight, our class master. 'Haven't you seen a girl before?'

30



'But – but Sir. 'Tata was our spokesman 'How will we concentrate on our studies?'

'When did you ever concentrate on your studies, Tata?'

'Are we going co-ed, sir?' Adams wanted to know

'Not at all,' said Mr Knight 'This is a special case. She is the school accounts manager's daughter, and he can't afford the Girls school fees. So, I'm sure you'll make her feel very welcome.'

The accountant was a popular man who also ran the school's tuck shop and allowed most of us a certain amount of credit. All our objections faded away

40

At first, Sunita, our new entrant, was a bit of a distraction because, although she was very shy and demure, she had lovely curly hair, bright eyes, pink cheeks and a smile for everyone. All the boys were very polite and attentive to her and Brian in particular was always ready to help her

– *Collection of Stories, Ruskin Bond*

- (i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided:

[3]

1. summoned (line 1)

- (a) totalled
- (b) ordered
- (c) requested
- (d) shout

2. aversion (line 10)

- (a) hatred
- (b) fear
- (c) politeness
- (d) creation

3. restored (line 25)

- (a) helped
- (b) returned
- (c) permit
- (d) victory

- (ii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:
- (a) Why did no one confess to having removed the missing bell? [1]
  - (b) Why did suspicion fall on the Sports Captain? [2]
  - (c) What made Brian think that it was Mr. Sharma? [2]
  - (d) Which sentence in the passage tells you that Mr. Knight thought poorly of Tata's academic performance? [2]
  - (e) Why was the accountant a popular man? [2]
- (iii) In not more than 50 words describe the effects of the lost bell. [8]

### Question 5

- (i) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

**Example:**

(0) One night four college students \_\_\_\_\_ (be) out partying late and did not study for the test scheduled for the next day.

**Answer:** were

In the morning, they (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (think) of a plan. They (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (make) themselves look dirty with grease and dirt. Then they (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the Dean and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (say) they (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out to a wedding last night and on their way back the tyre of their car burst and they had to push the car all the way back.

The Dean thought for a minute and said that they could have the re-test after three days. They (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (thank) him and said they would be ready. On the day of the test, they were made to sit in separate rooms. They agreed as they (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) well. But they (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a rude shock!

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. [4]
- (a) A bird \_\_\_\_\_ hand is worth two in the bush.
  - (b) The boy is crazy \_\_\_\_\_ football.

- (c) She was tired \_\_\_\_\_ fighting and struggling all the time.  
(d) He opted \_\_\_\_\_ of the race.  
(e) We borrowed the bikes \_\_\_\_\_ our uncle.  
(f) The police station is \_\_\_\_\_ the right.  
(g) I looked at the stars \_\_\_\_\_ the telescope.  
(h) There was an accident \_\_\_\_\_ the crossroads.
- (iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using *and, but* or *so*. Choose the correct option.

[4]

1. He jumped up. He ran away.
  - (a) He jumped up before he ran away.
  - (b) Jumping up, he ran away.
  - (c) He ran away after jumping.
  - (d) He ran away because he jumped up.
2. He has failed many times. Still, he hopes to succeed.
  - (a) He succeeds after he failed many times.
  - (b) Despite of failing, he hopes to succeed.
  - (c) In spite of many failures, he hopes to succeed.
  - (d) He failed many times even though he hopes to succeed.
3. Do not be a jeweller. Do not be a goldsmith.
  - (a) Be neither a jeweller nor a goldsmith.
  - (b) Be both a jeweller and a goldsmith.
  - (c) Either be a jeweller or a goldsmith.
  - (d) Be a jeweller as well as a goldsmith.
4. A cottager and his wife had a hen. The hen laid an egg every day.
  - (a) Everyday, a hen laid an egg for a cottager and his wife.
  - (b) A cottager and his wife had a hen who laid an egg every day.
  - (c) The cottager and his wife had an egg every day because they had a hen.
  - (d) A cottager and his wife had a hen which laid an egg every day.

- (iv) Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. Choose the correct options.

1. He said to me, "I don't believe you."

(Begin: *He said.....*)

- (a) He said he doesn't want to believe in me.
- (b) He said that he didn't believe me.
- (c) He said that he didn't believe in me.
- (d) He said I don't believe you.

2. Some boys were helping the wounded man.

(Begin: *The wounded.....*)

- (a) The wounded man was helping some boys.
- (b) The wounded man were helping some boys.
- (c) The wounded man was being helped by some boys.
- (d) The wounded boys were helping the man.

3. He is as wise as Solomon.

(Use: 'wiser')

- (a) Solomon was wiser than he is.
- (b) He and Solomon are wiser.
- (c) Solomon was the wisest.
- (d) Solomon was not wiser than he is.

4. If the boys do not reach the school on time, they will be punished.

(Begin: *Unless .....*) <https://www.icseonline.com>

- (a) Unless the boys reach the school on time, they will not be punished.
- (b) Unless the boys are punished, they will not reach the school on time.
- (c) Unless the school punished the boys, they will not reach on time.
- (d) Unless the boys reach the school on time, they will be punished.

5. As soon as he reaches home, his friends call him.  
(Begin: *Hardly*.....)

- (a) Hardly does he reach home when his friends call him.
- (b) Hardly had he reached home than his friends called him.
- (c) Hardly, he reaches home, his friends call him.
- (d) Hardly when he reaches home than his friends call him.

6. She is weak, but she is courageous.

(Begin: *Despite*.....)

- (a) Despite of being weak she is courageous.
- (b) Despite being weak, she is courageous.
- (c) Despite being courageous, she is not weak.
- (d) Despite weak, she is courageous.

7. We will never forget what we saw.

(Begin: *Never*.....)

- (a) Never forget what we see.
- (b) Never will we forget what we had seen.
- (c) Never will we see what we forget.
- (d) Never will we forget what we saw.

8. Jaswant's grandfather is too old to take up this job.

(Use: .....*so*.....*that*...)

- (a) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he could not take up this job.
- (b) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he cannot take up this job.
- (c) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he could take up this job.
- (d) Jaswant's grandfather is so old that he can take up this job.



# English 1 (English Language)

CISCE

English Medium)

Academic Year: 2023-2024

Date & Time: 21st February 2024, 11:00 am

Duration: 2h

Marks: 80

1. Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes. This time is to be spent reading the question paper.
3. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
4. Attempt all five questions.
5. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ]
6. You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes answering Question 1 and 20 minutes answering Question 2.

**Question 1.** (Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.) Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following:

1.1. Write a composition (300-350 words) on the following:

Write an original short story entitled 'A Strange Visitor'.

## Solution

### A Strange Visitor

She arrived, she observed, and she overcame. She was mysterious, gorgeous, and vibrantly alive. She was there, smiling brilliantly, as I opened the front door one morning. As she spoke English, my heart missed a beat. "Mohan Sharma?" she inquired with a beautiful sparkle in her voice. I nodded, entirely stunned. I lost faith in my voice. She grinned eeristically as though she knew my mental state.

"I'm Sophie," she said. "I am here to spend a day evaluating your way of life."

Indeed! And under the name of God, who dispatched you to meddle in my personal life?" I wanted to retort, but words choked me. She elegantly headed to the kitchen and said, "I'll assume the host since you lost your etiquette. How about my making us some coffee?" I managed a nod with nervousness. And in not too long I was clutching a steaming mug of coffee. She filled in the void with "grandparents". The woman arching one eyebrow questioned, "How do I know?" She said with tremendous certainty, "Well, I'm a tech marvel and you'll realise it very soon". She then looked about the room, the artwork and relics, the gadgets, and what not.

She was invading my space, and although I could not be nasty since my head was still confused about what was occurring, I could not be nasty. Many Alexas appeared to be following a hodgepodge of instructions, and a few more unidentified machines ran with quiet efficiency. Perfectly roasted mutton was presented with pizzas that rolled tantalistically on the table. All the equipment in the room responded to her just with a gesture. She seemed to have an invisible relationship with the technology all around us. A tech master is fantastic!

Then, as quickly as she had materialised, Sophie moved towards the door, her motions imbued with another world grace. She stopped at the doorway and looked across her shoulder, which appeared to cut right through the very fabric of reality. "Remember, Mohan," she added, her voice booming with a depth that felt both old and futuristic, "the world is far more wonderful than you have let yourself see." She left me wondering who she was then disappeared into the evening. Was she a figuration of my thoughts, a celestial visitor, an artificial intelligence masquerading as a human? Sophie lingered, turning a daily event into an intriguing mystery.

**1.2. Write a composition (300-350 words) the following:**

Narrate an incident from your experience in which your parents had entrusted you with a difficult task. Give details of the task, how you carried it out and your feelings at the end.

### **Solution**

"Do it yourself," came the strong voice of my father. My mother gave a small smile. I was stuck. Should I be cleaning my room alone? My panic seized me.

There was tension, but a flash of excitement danced over. We had moved into a bigger house, and shockingly, I found a room all to myself! a comfortable, well-ventilated room including a built-in wardrobe! As I considered the options, where to visit, and how I may arrange my room, my mind flew. First, though, the enormous effort of sorting the containers loomed. I opened every package hour by hour, carefully arranging my room.

I arranged a small dressing table across from my study table, placed my study table beside a brilliantly lit window, and set aside a wall shelf for my beloved Harry Potter collection. My luggage and clothes fit rather nicely in there. Time came for hanging the drapes and the pure white mosquito net; all small and nicely packed. Rising from the ceiling, it created a lavish fairy tale scenario that turned the area into one from a fairy tale, accentuated by the gentle illumination of string lights.

The sofa bed had fluffy, frilly cushions and a lovely bed cover from my mom matched the décor exactly. Satisfied, I looked over my work but thought something was missing. Perhaps one or two indoor plants. I chose to ignore my parents whispering as I down the stairs. When I got back, I found a wonderful metamorphosis.

Fairy lights threw a celestial radiance across the room like little stars. And on my study table stood my mom clutching a lovely bunch of fresh flowers ideal for my vase. Overwhelmed with thanks, I hugged both of them for allowing me to arrange my room to suit my taste and for their subdued methods of appreciating my effort.

**1.3. Write a composition (300-350 words) the following:**

Describe how you spend your time on a holiday afternoon. Why do you think it is necessary to have these times of quietness and solitude?

### **Solution**

What a break from it! After a busy week of studies and rushing about, a quiet holiday day by yourself is a welcome diversion. Nestled in my cosy woollen blanket, clutching a thrilling book and a cup of soothing ginger tea on the bedside table, I am surrounded by a calm bubble of satisfaction. I enjoy the suspense as the story approaches its climax so that my imagination may investigate several likely results. Rare is a perfect day like today.

Not tests, not a project to turn in, not housework to complete. Just free leisure. This independence stimulates the imagination and helps daydreams fly free and artistic ideas come to pass. There are advantages to afternoon siestas. First, a period of "quiet brings a sense of fulfilment.". Creativity leaps from millions of ideas, illuminating the subtleties of the mind.

Positive flows are backed by inner calm and contentment. Many poets and dramatists have found inspiration in such solitude when the silence of the afternoon gives their work life. It's incredible how a calm holiday could inspire us to create scripts, stories, and poems, all of which might otherwise lie dormant.

One cannot really overestimate the need for silence and solitude. These times are not just breaks from the daily grind but also necessary for spiritual development, inspiration, and a closer knowledge of oneself. They break from the craziness of life.

1.4. Write a composition (300-350 words) the following:

Express your views either for or against the statement 'Junk food should be banned'.

### **Solution**

For the statement

I really agree with the case to outlaw junk food. The simple word "junk" makes one think of all unwelcome, dangerous objects gathering around our homes. If we seek both physical and mental health, foods that block our arteries, promote fat cells to multiply, and weaken our muscles have no place in our diets. Often struggling with self-control in the face of tantalising, scented fried dishes sizzling in toxic fats, we are creatures of taste and habit.

Often, the sight and smell of fried food seething and sizzling in fatty acids are irresistible. A tongue used to the flavour of melting conserved cheese can overwhelm the most informed dietary information, therefore generating an irresistible need to indulge. It cannot be moved from giving in to the urge by any amount of reason or hard-hitting facts. Under such circumstances, only a complete prohibition will be able to sufficiently reduce these impulses.

With their diversity of sauces and spices meant to appeal to the palate, frequently at the expense of health, the enormous lines at fast-food outlets confirm the explosive industry of convenience meals. Artificial colours and taste enhancers impair our health; children, especially are exposed to these risks. Before our future generations have an opportunity to flourish, as a society we have to shield them from such dangers.

Small fast-food establishments run in the nooks and edges of cities where no quality or hygiene is guaranteed, while food control agencies oversee hotels and restaurants. Obesity and heart-related problems have become the bane of modern civilization; the sooner these are eliminated, the better for the people; a complete ban on junk food is the only way to prevent a future health catastrophe.

Against the statement

Though it might seem like a simple fix, banning junk food is more like following shadows. Such dishes are unquestionably appealing and well established in many people's taste in cuisine.

Junk food, characterised by its lack of nutrients and high-calorie content, might not contribute to a healthy diet, but neither do many traditional foods we consume daily. Numerous packaged foods on our kitchen shelves, laden with unhealthy ingredients, must also be banned under such criteria.

Furthermore, these "problematic" foods are quick meals that satisfy appetites at a reasonable cost, therefore meeting the needs of both students and professionals. In moderation, these supposedly "junk" foods offer a welcome diversion from the monotony of home-cooked cuisine. This is the reason they are termed optional or "discretionary" meals.

One wonders how something like a burger, loaded with meat and fresh greens, fits into the trash category. Are they worse than white rice or dishes cooked in refined oils, which have been stripped of their essential nutrients and are the mainstay of many diets? Many dietitians contend that the true offenders, processed rice and bread, should be taken off our diets. Does that, however, support a government-mandated ban on widely consumed basic foods? There are other ways to handle the problem than enforcing prohibitions than bans. Most vital is awareness. Much of the harm caused by "junk" food can be greatly reduced if the public is informed by promotional activities, if courses in



healthy eating are included in schoolbooks, and if celebrities avoid endorsing unhealthful products. An excellent example of encouraging healthier choices, India's effort to emphasise millets and red rice during the G20 Meet motivates people to change their diets. Without resorting to extreme measures, encouraging the manufacture of reasonably priced organic foods, regulatory warnings on products heavy in empty calories and possible health hazards, and lobbying against bad eating habits can help to make society more health-conscious.

1.5. Write a composition (300-350 words) on the following:

Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture, or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



### **Solution**

Children come to enjoy their preferred past time as the afternoon sun paints golden tones over the area. Among their games is a creative spin on carom performed on a specially designed board that combines imagination with part invention. Playing a special form of carom on a board, they created is one of their favourite pastimes. Showcasing their inventiveness, this unique board combines an essential kiln with a smooth surface with corner holes.

The children's exuberance on their faces is evidence of their great enjoyment of the game. Though they lack the flashy toys and devices city children have, the village children discover their means of entertainment. They always find methods to keep themselves occupied, whether dangling from branches, climbing trees, or playing cricket on uneven areas with homemade wickets and handcrafted wooden bats and string balls.

Barefoot and free-spirited, they join together to play in their straightforward, carefree manner, demonstrating that enjoyment does not depend on costly things. Their modest manner of life or lack of conveniences do not hamper their dreams. A few of them dream grandi. Among them is Raja, a young lad with great aspirations. Photographed, his focused gaze and hopeful smile point to him as destined for great things.

Raja, the son of industrious parents, manages his education by doing housework. But he likes playing at night, full of laughter and handcrafted toys. He uses his leisure time in the evenings to play with friends and create mud pots and other nick-knobs he may use as toys. The board game he created and developed with friends' assistance is perfect. Who knows? Perhaps a future architect or scientist is dormant and waiting to soar the planet with his achievements!

**Question 2.** (Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.) Select any one of the following:

**2.1.** Your friend was absent from school on a day when an unfortunate incident took place for which you were blamed. Write a letter to your friend giving details about the incident, your role in it and how the matter was finally resolved.

### **Solution**

20 R Anand Park, Charni Road,  
sophie's Garden,  
Mumbai.  
23 February 2024

Dear Ashish,

After the procedure, I expect you are healing nicely. I am equally thrilled to meet you and know you are keen to start your education. I'm writing to let you know of a regrettable occurrence that occurred today during the meeting.

Examining our baggage was done while tests were still under way. As luck would have it, my backpack turned up a roll of minutely written notes that were confiscated. I truly had no idea how that got in there. The perfect asl could explain; I could just stand there and blink.

Some pupils were grinning at my discomfiture. You would have been by my side like a rock, therefore I missed you badly. Still, our friend kunal had the foresight to verify the closed circuit. Camera, and I discovered a lad from another class sliding something into my bag.

That was sufficient to quell my own mistrust. Though I'm glad I have been cleared of a major allegation, the situation has helped me identify my actual friends. I just hope you start showing up for class right away. I miss you sorely. I look forward to seeing you shortly.

Yours lovingly,  
Rajesh

**2.2.** You wish to stage a play to create awareness about the importance of saving electricity. Write a letter to the Manager of a nearby shopping mall/supermarket requesting permission to use the space in front of the shopping mall/supermarket to stage the play. Give him/her details about your requirements and state why the play will be beneficial to the shoppers.

### **Solution**

Royal Public School,  
Plot 1, Udaypur,  
Jaipur 300089.  
23 February 2024

The Manager  
Suvidha Supermarket,  
M. K. Road,  
Jaipur - 302009.

Dear Sir,

Writing on behalf of our school's Drama Club, I am looking for your approval for an original project. Centred on the crucial theme of saving power, a topic of tremendous relevance to every part of our community, we intend to present a play. We want a wide audience, hence we are looking for a site that naturally draws a lot of visitors. We ask

permission to stage our performance across the large area in front of the supermarket since it seems like the best spot to draw attention.

Since the message of our play speaks to both shopkeepers and the general public equally, I hope you will help us by providing us permission to use the venue for our performance.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to the possibility of collaborating with you on this community-oriented project.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Arjun Ahuja

[Secretary, Drama Club,  
Royal Public School, Jaipur]

### Question 3.

**3.1.** Your school is hosting an Inter School Dance Competition. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing the students about the event.

### Solution

#### Greenwood High School

#### NOTICE

**Date:** 20th July 2024

#### Inter School Dance Competition

We are excited to announce that our school will host an Inter School Dance Competition on 30th July 2024 at 10:00 AM in the School Auditorium. All interested students should register with their class teachers by 25th July 2024.

For more details, contact the Cultural Committee.

Mrs. Ananya Sharma

(Cultural Committee Head)

**3.2.** Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school to request him/her to send their dance teacher to act as a judge for the competition.

**Solution**

To: principalroyalschool@gmail.com

Subject: Inviting Your Dance Teacher to Judge Inter School Dance Competition at Royal School

Dear Madam,

With this email, hopefully, I will find you well. On behalf of Royal School, where we are feverly getting ready for our forthcoming inter-school Dance Competition, I am writing to you. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., this event is set for the Surabhi Auditorium on our school grounds on March 22, 2024. We are dedicated to making the competition fair and unforgettable for every involved institution. We are contacting eminent dance teachers to create our panel of judges in order to guarantee the success of this event. It would be a pleasure for us to have your dance teacher judge the competition, given the standing of your school's dance programmes and her experiences. If you could arrange for the dancing teacher from your institution to evaluate the competitors, we would be much obliged. Please give our invitation some thought. We look forward to having your dance teacher attend our event.

Warm Regards,  
Yours faithfully,  
Amrita Rao  
Secretary, Arts Club  
Royal School

**Question 4.** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Ashamanja Babu lived in a small flat in Bhowanipore. A clerk in the registry department of Lajpat Rai Post Office, Ashamanja Babu was fortunate as he could walk to his office in seven minutes flat without having to fight his way into the buses and trains of Calcutta. He lived a rather carefree life as he was not the kind of person to sit and brood about what might have been had fate been kinder to him. On the whole, he was quite content with his lot. Two Hindi films and fish twice a week-these were



enough to keep him happy. The only thing that 10 perturbed him at times was his lack of companionship. A bachelor with few friends and relatives, he often wished he had a dog to keep him company. It need not be a huge Alsatian like the one owned by the Talukdars, who lived two houses down the lane; it could be any ordinary little dog which would follow him around morning and evening, wag its tail when he came home from work and obey his orders faithfully. Ashamanja Babu's secret desires were that he would speak to his dog in English.

'Stand up', 'Sit down', 'Shake hands' - how nice it 20 would be if his dog obeyed such commands! That would make him really happy.

On a cloudy day marked by a steady drizzle, Ashamanja Babu went to the market in Hashimara to buy some oranges. At one end of the market, beside a stunted kul tree, sat a man. As their eyes met, the man smiled. Was he a beggar? His clothes made him look like one. Ashamanja Babu noticed at least five sewn-on patches on his trousers and jacket. But the man didn't have a begging bowl. Instead, by his side was a shoe-box with a 30 little pup sticking its head out of it.

'Good morning!' said the man in English. Ashamanja Babu was obliged to return the greeting.

'Buy dog? Dog buy? Very good dog.' The man had taken the pup out of the box and had put it down on the ground. 'Very cheap. Very good. Happy dog.'

The pup shook the raindrops off its coat, looked at Ashamanja Babu and wagged its minuscule two-inch tail. Ashamanja Babu moved closer to the pup, crouched ' on the ground and stretched out his hand. The pup gave 40 his ring finger a lick with its pink tongue. Nice, friendly dog.

'How much? What price?'

'Ten rupees.'

A little haggling and the price came down to seven rupees. Ashamanja Babu paid the money, put the pup back in the shoe-box, closed the lid to save it from the drizzle, and turned homewards, forgetting all about the oranges.

- i. For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: (2)

1. perturbed (line 11)
    - a. frightened
    - b. unsettled
    - c. confused
    - d. mocked
  2. stunted (line 25)
    - a. prevented from growing
    - b. prepared for tricks
    - c. prevented from taking action
    - d. allowed to do stunts
- ii. Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word 'expensive'? (1)
- a. Carefree
  - b. Ordinary
  - c. Cheap
  - d. haggling
- iii. **Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:**
- a. What kept Ashamanja Babu happy? (2)
  - b. What does this tell you about him? (2)
  - c. What is that one other thing he needed to complete his happiness? (1)
  - d. Why did Ashamanja Babu think the man was a beggar? (2)
  - e. Why did Ashamanja Babu forget about his oranges? (2)
- iv. In not more than 50 words, narrate the series of events from the time the puppy was taken out of the box till it was paid for. (8)

### **Solution**

- i. 1. unsettled  
2. prevented from growing

ii. cheap

iii.

- a. Twice a week fish and two Hindi flicks kept Ashamanja Babu, the clerk, delighted. He had a free life and had few wants.
- b. Ashamanja Babu felt his life was good. He never grumbled or worried about what he lacked or about what may happen going forward. It required quite little to keep him content. Ashamanja Babu led an ordinary, carefree life.
- c. The only thing missing in Ashamanja Babu's life was a companion. He wanted a dog to give him company and complete his happiness.
- d. One end of the market Ashamanja Babu visited to purchase some oranges revealed a man seated with at least five sewn-on patches on his trousers and jacket on an overcast day. This let him believe the man to be a beggar.
- e. In the excitement of bargaining and buying the puppy which he had wanted for a long time, Ashamanja Babu forgot to buy oranges.

iv. **Rough Draft:**

When	Brought	out,	the	pup
shook	Away	raindrops,	looked	up,
and	Wagged	its	tail.	Crouching,
the	man	extended	his	hand.
The	Pup	licked	his	finger,
proving	friendly.	The	seller	quoted
ten	rupees	but	after	haggling,
sold	it	for	seven.	Ashamanja Babu
paid	the	money,	and	took
it	Home	in	the	box.

v.

**Fair Draft:**

When	brought	out,	the	pup
shook	away	raindrops,	looked	up,
and	wagged	its	tail.	Crouching,
Ashamanja	Babu	extended	his	hand.
The	friendly	pup	licked	his
finger.	The	seller	quoted	ten
rupees;	however,	after	haggling	he
sold	it	for	seven.	Ashamanja
paid	the	money,	and	took
it	home	in	the	box.

**Question 5.**

**5.1.** Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space.

He (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (select) clothes for me, and my aunt (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (give) my face a scrub and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (groom) me. My uncle (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (follow) me about (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (utter) several pieces of advice before (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (let) me out. 'You must never scowl even if the sun (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) you in the eyes. You must try (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (look) pleasant.'

**Solution**

He selected clothes for me, and my aunt gave my face a scrub and groomed me. My uncle followed me about uttering several pieces of advice before letting me out. 'You must never scowl even if the sun hits you in the eyes. You must try to look pleasant.'

**5.2.** Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

5.2.a. There's a black cat sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.

**Solution**

There's a black cat sitting **on** the wall.

5.2.b. The horse jumped \_\_\_\_\_ the hedge.

**Solution**

The horse jumped **over** the hedge.

5.2.c. Mother goes \_\_\_\_\_ the market every day.

**Solution**

Mother goes **to** the market every day.

5.2.d. Several people have climbed Mount Everest \_\_\_\_\_ recent years.

**Solution**

Several people have climbed Mount Everest **in** recent years.

5.2.e. I often go to school \_\_\_\_\_ my friend.

**Solution**

I often go to school **with** my friend.

5.2.f. I have left my keys \_\_\_\_\_ home.

**Solution**

I have left my keys **at** home.

5.2.g. Instead to talking, prove your worth \_\_\_\_\_ doing something.

**Solution**

Instead to talking, prove your worth **by** doing something.

5.2.h. I have not slept \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday.

**Solution**

I have not slept **since** yesterday.



5.3.

5.3.a. Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so.

The magician took pity on the mouse. He turned it into a cat.

1. Showing pity on the mouse he turned it into a cat.
2. Taking pity on the mouse he turned it into a cat.
3. The magician turned the mouse into a cat by taking pity.
4. Taking pity on the mouse the magician turned it into a cat.

**Solution**

Taking pity on the mouse the magician turned it into a cat.

5.3.b. Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so.

This work must be completed. There is a deadline.

1. Since this work must be completed, there is a deadline.
2. This work must be completed because there is a deadline.
3. This work must be completed though there is a deadline.
4. This work must be completed when there is a deadline.

**Solution**

This work must be completed because there is a deadline.

5.3.c. Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so.

He fled somewhere. His pursuers could not follow him.

1. He fled where his pursuers could not follow him.
2. He pursued somewhere his followers could not flee.
3. He fled somewhere when his pursuers could not follow him.
4. He fled where his pursuers cannot follow him.

**Solution**

He fled where his pursuers could not follow him.

**5.3.d.** Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so.

He began late. He finished first.

1. He finished first and began late.
2. He began first but finished late.
3. Though he finished late, he began first.
4. **Though he began late, he finished first.**

### **Solution**

Though he began late, he finished first.

**5.4.** Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instructions given after each.

**5.4.a.** Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain. (Add a question tag)

1. Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, didn't they?
2. Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, had they?
3. **Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, hadn't they?**
4. Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, hadn't they?

### **Solution**

Arun and Nikhil had climbed the mountain, hadn't they?

**5.4.b.** The children have broken the window pane. (Begin: The window pane...)

1. The window pane had been broken by the children.
2. **The window pane has been broken by the children.**
3. The window pane has not been broken by the children.
4. The window pane had not been broken by the children.

### **Solution**

The window pane has been broken by the children.

**5.4.c.** The apples are so cheap that they cannot be good. (Use: 'too')

1. The apples are too cheap and good.
2. The apples are too cheap as well as good.

3. The apples are too good to be cheap.

4. The apples are too cheap to be good.

### Solution

The apples are too cheap to be good.

5.4.d. She is very clever and beautiful. (Use: 'not only')

1. Not only is she very clever but also beautiful.

2. Not only was she beautiful and she was also clever.

3. Not only is she clever she was also very beautiful.

4. Not only was she very beautiful but is also clever.

### Solution

Not only is she very clever but also beautiful.

5.4.e. prefer a simple vanilla ice cream to fancy desserts. (Begin: I would rather...)

1. I would rather have a simple vanilla ice cream to fancy desserts.

2. I would rather have a simple vanilla ice cream than fancy desserts.

3. I would rather prefer a simple vanilla ice cream than fancy desserts.

4. I would rather have a vanilla ice cream than a fancy dessert.

### Solution

I would rather have a simple vanilla ice cream than fancy desserts.

5.4.f. He asked, "When do you intend to make the payment?". (Begin: He asked...)

1. He asked when he did intend to make the payment.

2. He asked when she is intending to make the payment.

3. He asked when I intended to make the payment.

4. He asked when they are intending to make the payment.

### Solution

He asked when I intended to make the payment.

5.4.g. If the rain does not stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry. (Begin: Unless...)

1. Unless the rain does not stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.
2. Unless Mariam does the laundry, the rain will not stop.
3. Unless the rain stop, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.
4. Unless the rain stops, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.

### Solution

Unless the rain stops, Mariam will not be able to do the laundry.

5.4.h. This is the best movie I have ever seen. (Begin: Never...)

1. Never had I seen a good movie than this.
2. Never I have seen a better movie than this.
3. Never have I seen a better movie than this.
4. I have never seen a good movie as this.

### Solution

Never have I seen a better movie than this.